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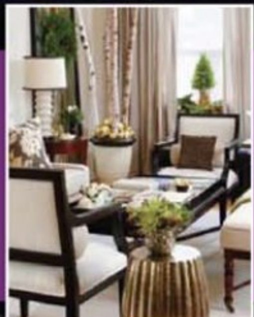
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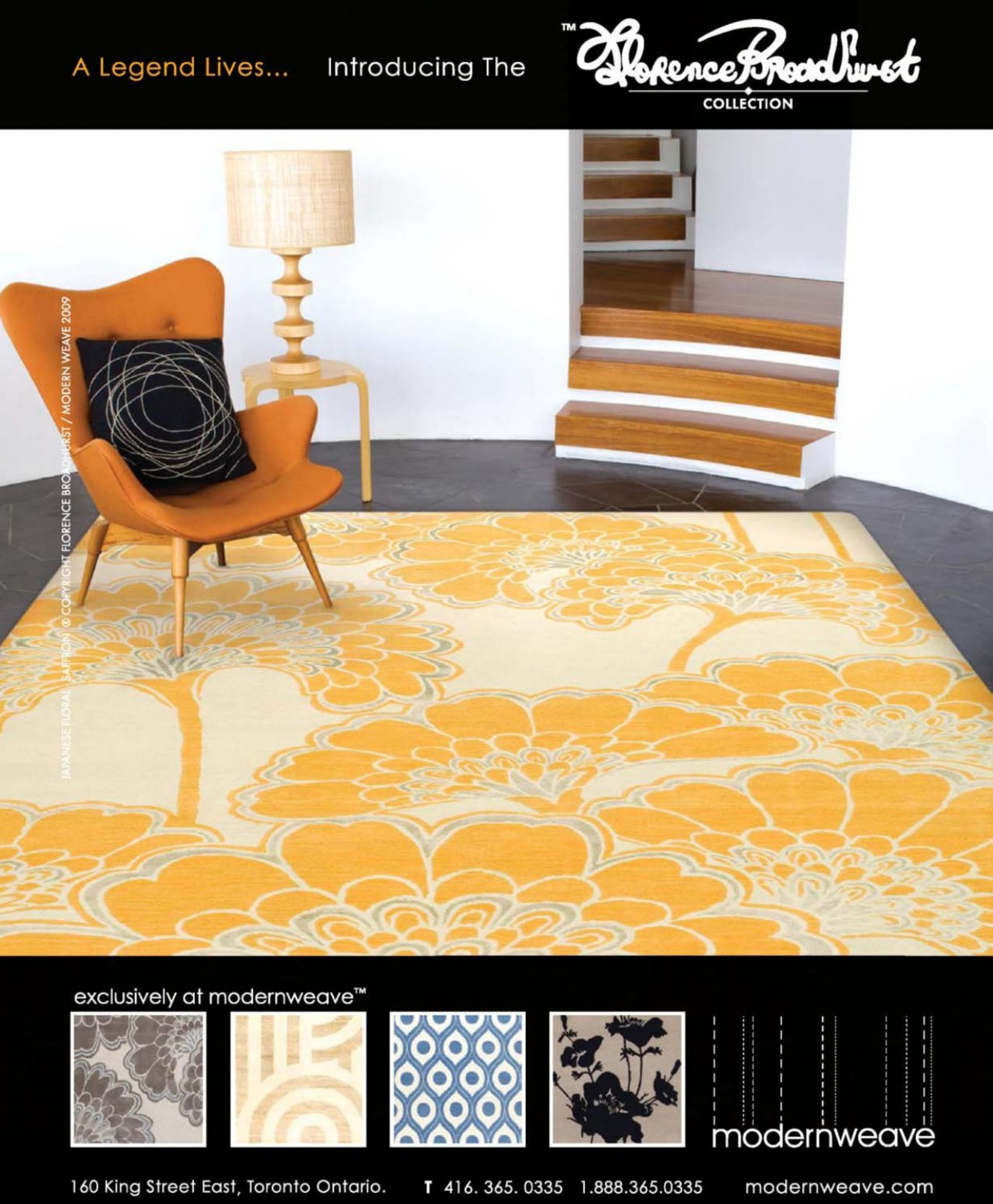
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DECEMBER 2009



ON THE COVER

Incorporating tones of your existing decor gives holiday decorating a personal twist (page 140). Photo by Donna Griffith



homes

holiday special

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114



70



home & style

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REGULARS

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'Tis the season...



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JOHNNY REID
Christmas

Johnny Reid returns to fill hearts and homes with Christmas cheer this season. Includes upbeat soulful renditions of many Christmas classics and two original songs.



JANN ARDEN
Free

Free has Jann going back to her roots. Gorgeous songs that are simple, powerful and embrace simple human emotions and sentiment. Includes hit single "A Million Miles Away".



LIONA BOYD
Seven Journeys

Seven Journeys is a beautiful concept album combining new age music, ambient sounds and inspiring and relaxing world music influences. Truly a sonic journey into another world...



MATT DUSK
Good News

Matt Dusk's first recording in 3 years is *Good News*, an album of original and international hit songs that sees a brave shift in direction for one of Canada's great crooners.



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to give and receive.



THE CANADIAN TENORS
The Perfect Gift

The Canadian Tenors return to delight us with their debut holiday season album *The Perfect Gift* - favourite traditional songs and some gorgeous new additions including "Ave Maria" & "The Perfect Gift".



CELTIC THUNDER
Take Me Home

Brand new studio album featuring 14 new songs including the favourite hit "Steal Away". DVD also available. Filmed in Canada.



STING
If On A Winter's Night…

As you reflect upon this wintry night, travel with Sting on his seasonal sojourn of song.



MELODY GARDOT
My One And Only Thrill

My One And only Thrill is an intensely creative milestone, transcending genre distinctions of jazz and blues to offer a haunting personal musical statement that will appeal to all music-lovers.



HAYLEY WESTENRA
Winter Magic

Winter Magic combines some of the best loved and most familiar seasonal carols as well as tracks written by Hayley herself.

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deck the halls

When Nora Ephron's *Julie & Julia* came to the big screen this summer, like many of you, I rushed out to watch Meryl Streep bring the memory of Julia Child to life. I left the theatre feeling anything was possible. It was a compelling testament to the power of will and hard work – and an intoxicating appeal to follow your creativity.

As the holidays approach, I always feel a sentimental connection to one of Nora's first films: *When Harry Met Sally*. In it, there's a scene where Meg Ryan and Billy Crystal go Christmas tree shopping to the sounds of Ray Charles crooning "Winter Wonderland": "Later on, we'll conspire, As we dream by the fire…" For me, it captures all the romance and possibility of a snow-filled afternoon spent readying your home for the holidays.

We're heading into that period when festive fervour is reaching its pitch. When speaking of this recently with a colleague, she described herself as actually vibrating with excitement at the mere thought of holiday decorating. There's nothing she likes more than decking out her home for the occasion.

I typically take a more laid-back approach, but this year I feel inspired. And hopefully you will, too, once you discover all the gorgeous (and plenty of low-effort) ways to bring the holidays home in these pages. I wish you a season full of creativity and joy!

Jane

Jane Francisco
jane@styleathome.com

This month, Jane has been…

INDULGING in some "me time" in my own home, after a whirlwind autumn spent travelling for work and for pleasure.

FINISHING a crocheted afghan I started three years ago. I still love the pattern, and I can't wait to curl up with it and a good book.

SAYING GOODBYE to the Jacuzzi bathtub (circa 1981) in my master ensuite. It's the final frontier of my multiyear home renovation. Yay!

GIVING & RECEIVING by ordering these beautiful gingerbreads ($25 per box of six) from Eat My Words.*



* You can order them at eatmywords.org and ship anywhere in Canada. All proceeds go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

check out…



PAGE 72
A gorgeous graphic ottoman doubles as a foyer organizer and an easy pullout seat.



PAGE 87
Fab find! Add curves to your living room with this on-trend luxe lamp for less than $120.



PAGE 136
Make these beautiful modern topiaries from inexpensive supermarket buys.

PORTRAIT BY DONNA GRIFFITH. PHOTOS (FROM LEFT): LARA FISHBEIN, VIRGINIA MACDONALD, COURTESY OF KELLY WEARSTLER, INC.

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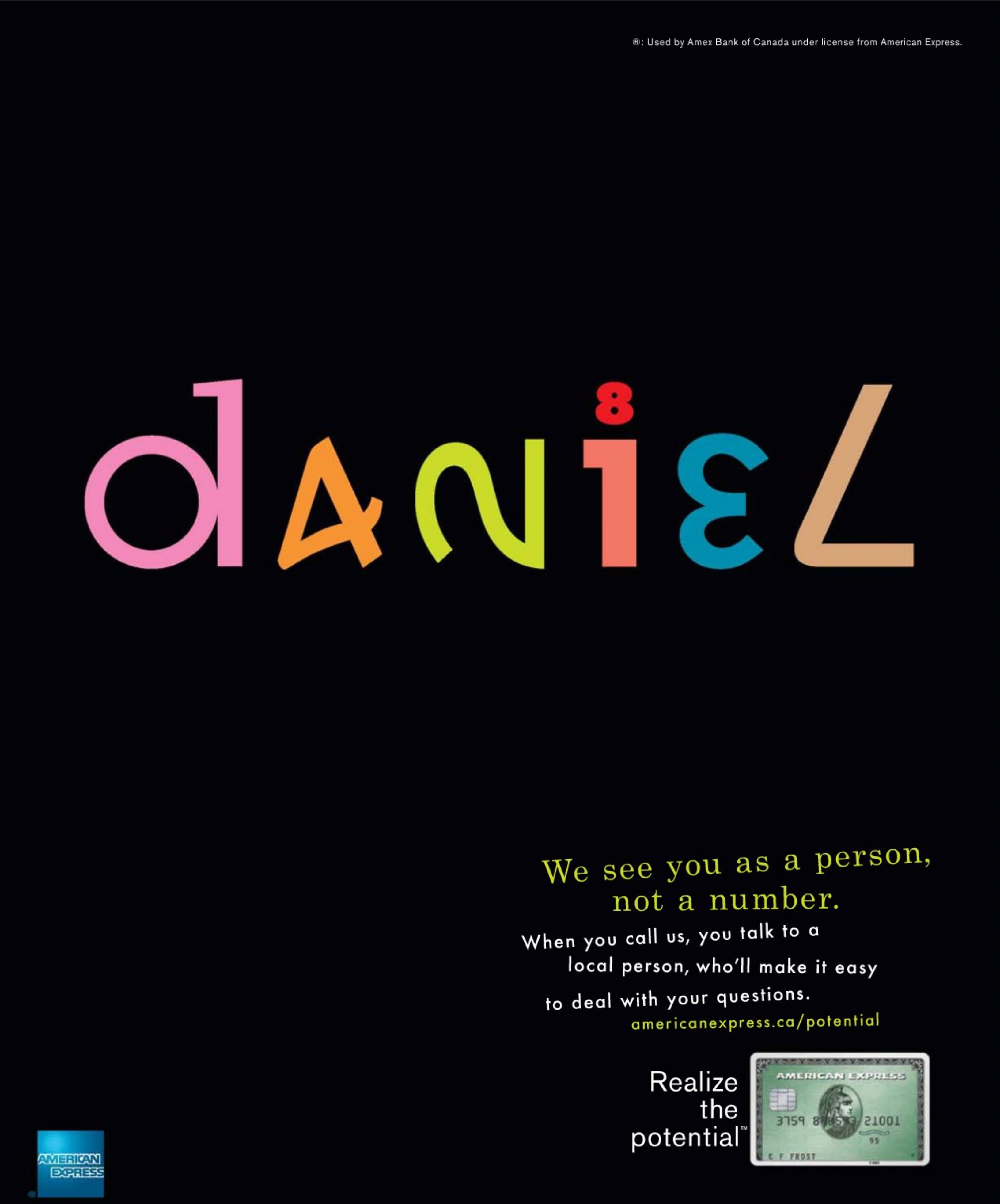
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INSIDE DESIGN >> SEE PAGE 76

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HOME & STYLE >> SEE PAGE 38

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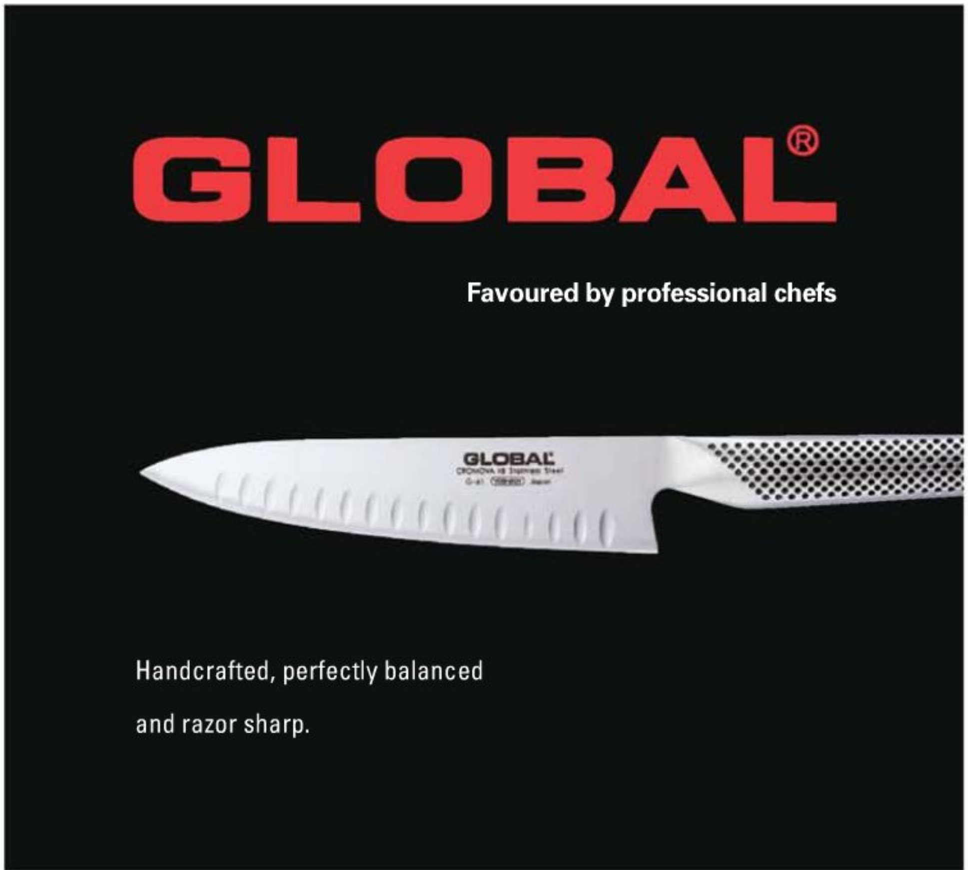
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date with style

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seasons christmas show

Catch editor-in-chief Jane Francisco, associate design editor Brett Walther and contributing style editor Karl Lohnes on the main stage at the Seasons Christmas Show, Nov. 22 (at noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m), for Style at Home Day. They'll be presenting stylish design ideas for your home at this one-stop holiday shopping event. Tickets are $12 for adults, $10 for seniors or youths, and free for children age 12 and under. Go to seasonsshow.com for more info.

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JANE FRANCISCO, BRETT WALTHER



KARL LOHNES

christmas in november

Join contributing style editor Karl Lohnes for Christmas in November at The Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge in Jasper, Alta., where he'll be presenting holiday decorating trends. Check out christmasinnovember.com or call 888-270-8855 for information and travel package details (there are four different packages available).

The Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, Jasper, Alta.
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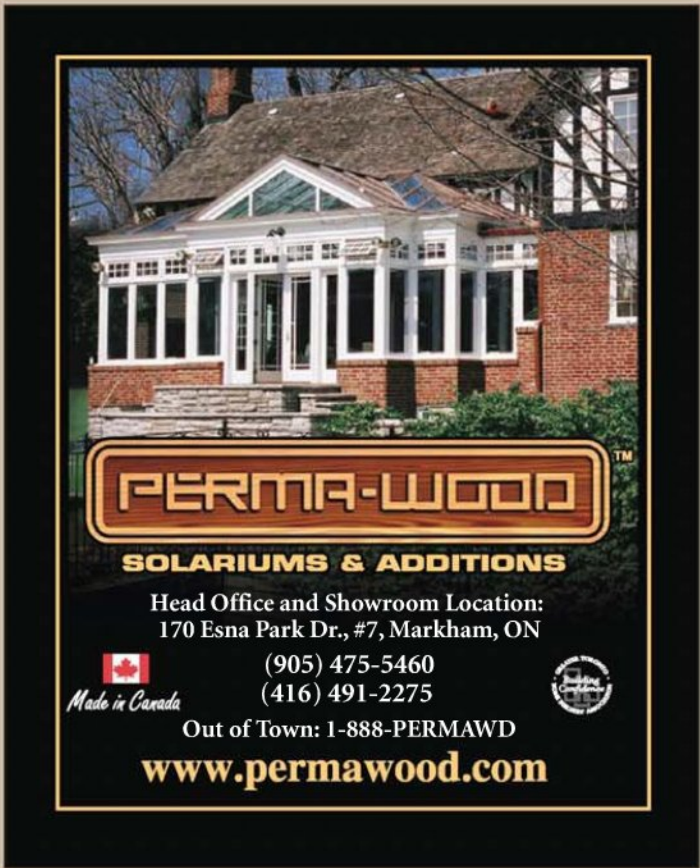
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letters



MYSTERY ARTIST

I love the painting of clouds and water above the fireplace mantel in "Hide & Seek" (September 2009). Can you tell me the name of the artist?

BUFFY TAPPS, VIA E-MAIL

WE LOVE IT, TOO! The artist is Stuart Slind of Bowen Island, B.C. You can view some of his work at stuartslind.ca.



BOOKCASE BUMBLE

I'm trying to find the Low bookcase shown in High/Low (September 2009). The description says it's the Lack bookcase from IKEA, but it doesn't look like the one at ikea.ca. Where can I find the one you pictured?

JENNIFER LAZAREVSKI, VIA E-MAIL

SORRY! The bookcase shown was actually IKEA's Expedit (left).



MY OWN LOVELY LAUNDRY

I love *Style at Home* and look forward to each issue. When I saw the laundry hampers in Window Shopping (October 2009), I had to share the great hamper/armoire that my husband, Dean, made.



It looks wonderful in our upstairs hallway, plus the laundry gets pre-sorted, and no one can tell it's a hamper unless they open it. The top drawer is functional and the bottom two drawers conceal the hamper, which contains three removable bags (great for pre-sorting colours). Keep up the excellent work!

MARJORIE BLAIR, BROOKLIN, ONT.

we love to hear from you!

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Brighten up your windowsill with a **Glade® Holiday Collection Jar Candle** that's infused with essential oils. Place one inside an indoor lantern and leave the door ajar, so that the scent of Glade® ***Homemade Gingerbread™*** warms your room with the fragrance of holiday baking. Add mercury glass tree ornaments to create an instant festive vignette.

③ A WARM WELCOME
Because it comes in its own portable and attractive container, a **Glade® Scented Oil Candle Tin** makes it easy to bring ambience to any high-traffic area, like a front hall. Place one on a console table, and let the inviting fragrance of Glade® ***Bayberry Spice*** greet your guests and fill your home. Each charming decorative tin holder comes with its own candle refill.

Photography by Angus Fergusson

View the complete Glade® Holiday Candle collection online at **glade.ca**.

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ONLINE THIS MONTH

styleathome.com



I have trouble pairing wine with food. Can you help?

STYLEATHOME.COM/WINEPAIRING



Oops! I've run out of time to mail my Christmas cards. What should I do?

STYLEATHOME.COM/ECARDS

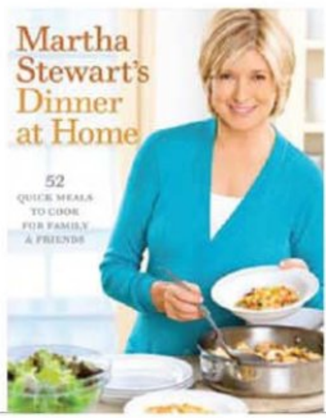
If you're dreaming of a green Christmas – and not just as a festive colour palette, check out our tips on making the holidays eco friendly?

STYLEATHOME.COM/ECOCHRISTMAS



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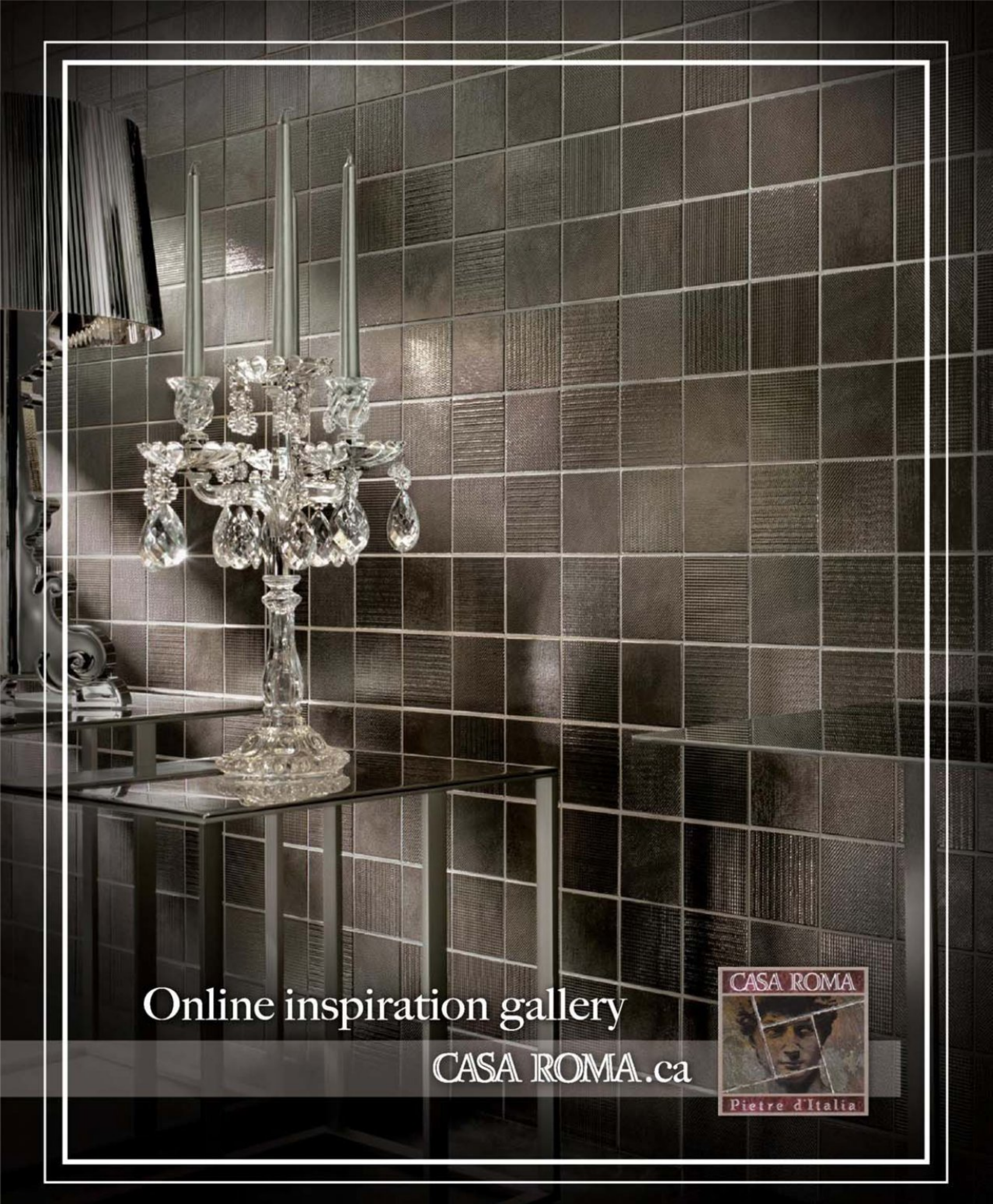
win! Holiday books from Random House

Sign up for the *Style at Home* e-newsletter, and you'll automatically be entered into our monthly e-newsletter subscriber contest for your chance to win great prizes! This month, you could win an eight-book prize pack from Random House, including *Martha Stewart's Dinner at Home* and the mouth-watering *Baking* by James Peterson. These gorgeous books have the recipes and tips you'll need for hosting a flawless holiday affair. **Approximate retail value: $290.**

To enter, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/SUBSCRIBE**



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home&style



hammered glamour

TRENDSPOTTING Hammered finishes are the hottest trend hitting silver this holiday, and West Elm's delightfully dimpled entertaining wares have enough seasonal sparkle to serve as decorations in their own right.

HAMMERED-ALUMINUM ENTERTAINING SERVEWARE (FROM REAR) 24" ROUND TRAY $59, 11" X 5" TRAY $12, 10" PITCHER $29, 10½" X 4" BOWL $24, 4" X 2" DIP BOWL $5, 14" X 18" TRAY WITH HANDLES $59, WEST ELM, TORONTO, 416-537-0110; WESTELM.COM.

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holiday wall decals

Feeling a bit cramped by Christmas? Take your festive flair in a two-dimensional direction with sophisticated peel-and-stick wall decals that are anything but flat. HOME DECAL METALLIC REINDEER DECALS $17 PER PACK OF THREE, PIERRE BELVÉDÈRE, ESSENCE DU PAPIER, MONTREAL, 514-874-9915; TORONTO, 416-349-7111, EXT. 5220; VANCOUVER, 604-685-7489, EXT. 5220; PIERREBELVEDERE.COM.



THINK GREEN

the original zero-VOC

The "greenest" decorating secret from 18th-century homemakers is out. Milk paint – derived from all-natural powdered pigments – is set for a 21st-century comeback. Canadian manufacturer Homestead House serves up more than 40 historic-flavoured hues – in three finishes ranging from a translucent wash (great for a pickled finish on furnishings) to an opaque. Just add water, mix and go! HOMESTEAD HOUSE MILK PAINT $16 PER 170 G BAG (COVERS APPROXIMATELY 50 SQ. FT.), GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS, 888-633-5833; GRASSROOTSSTORE.COM.



vintage baubles

Intricate bead-encrusted crochet adds a romantic Victorian air to ribbed-glass ornaments. 5" ORNAMENTS $6 EACH, HOMESENSE, 866-466-3707; HOMESENSE.CA.

For more stylish finds, check out associate design editor Brett Walther's blog at **STYLEATHOME.COM/STYLESLEUTH**



pettable pillows

Silky, sexy and incredibly soft, these are quite possibly the cosiest cushions we've ever come across. Finished in soft alpaca on one side and ultrafine baby alpaca – shorn, not skinned – on the reverse, they're a splurge-worthy seasonal update that adds instant warmth to any sofa. ALPACA CUSHION COVERS WITH INSERTS $240 (20"), $208 (18"), LINEN WAY, WOODBRIDGE, ONT., 905-653-3006; LINENWAY.COM. KARLSTAD LOVESEAT IN LINNERYD NATURAL COVER $770, IKEA, 866-866-4532; IKEA.CA.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE RHODES (ORNAMENTS, PILLOWS)

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faux fir

The legendary Alfred Sung lends his luxe-for-less design savvy to an affordable new holiday collection for Zellers. Among the highlights? This towering 500-light tree, and fashion-forward ornaments from only $2 each. ALFRED SUNG HOME CITY LIGHTS 7½' PRE-LIT TREE $350, ZELLERS, ZELLERS.COM.





versatile vases

As a solitary glass sculpture or grouped in multiples, Brian Gluckstein's elongated teardrop vases pack a big-ticket art vibe at a budget-friendly price point. GLUCKSTEINHOME 19.7" COLOURED GLASS VASES $40 EACH, THE BAY, THEBAY.COM.



Great gift! For more gift-giving inspiration, turn to page 89

tabletop totems

With the Vancouver Olympics mere months away, homages to the art and motifs of Pacific Northwest Native tribes are a trend to watch for in early 2010. ROB SOUTHCOTT TOTEM STACKING PORCELAIN COFFEE CUPS $80 PER SET OF FOUR, IMM LIVING, TORONTO, 647-350-2038; IMM-LIVING.COM.

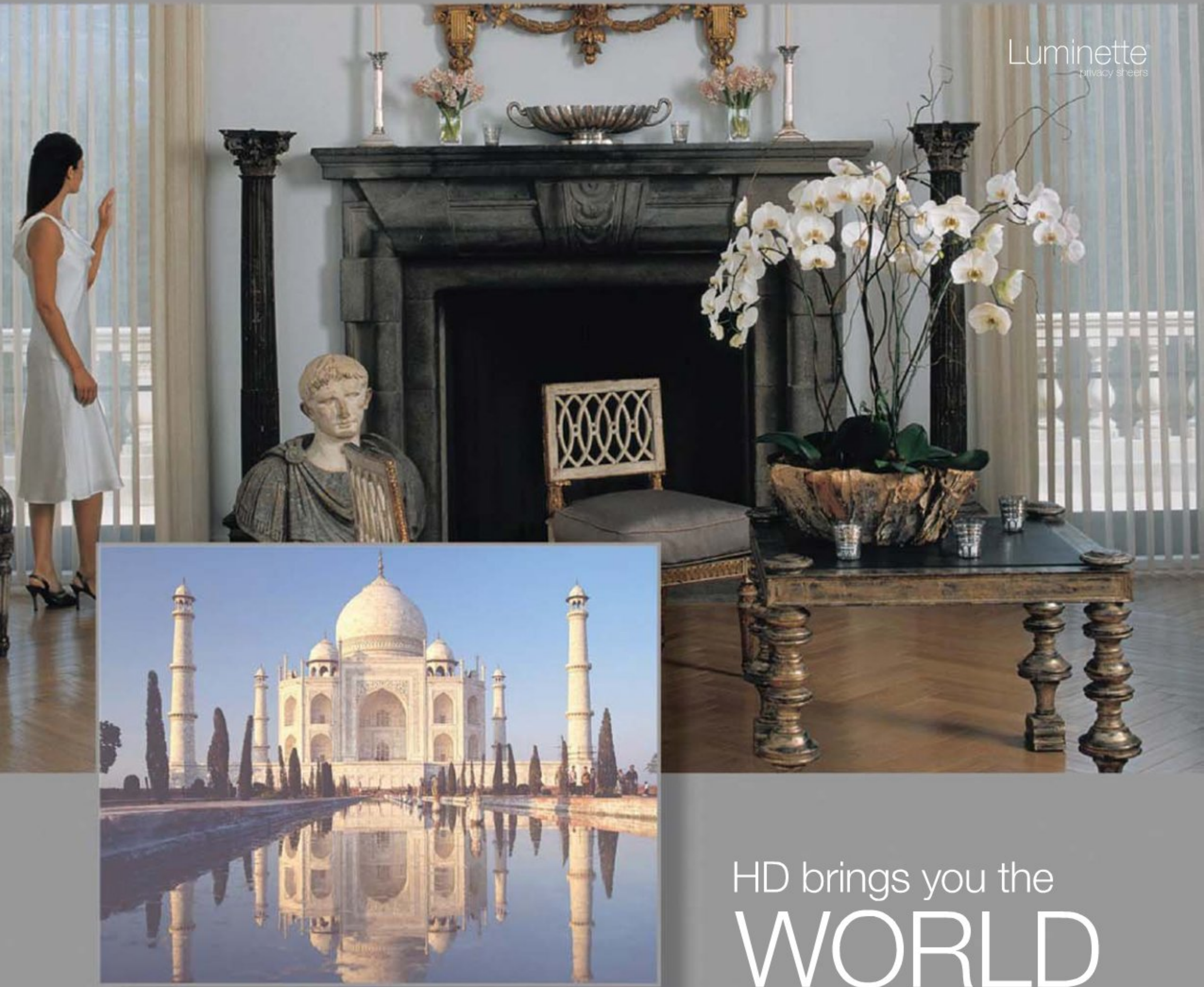


chic shipping

Sending gifts by post this holiday? Dress up your deliveries with decorative packing tape that dolls up even the plainest parcel. TAPESWELL VINTAGE WHITE LACE AND BLACK LACE ROLLS $28 PER CANISTER OF TWO, THE TATE GROUP, TORONTO, 416-504-8047; THETATEGROUP.COM.

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INSPIRATION

london calling

TRENDSPOTTING It turns out this poster, a perky piece of British wartime propaganda – a hit back in February at the Interior Design Show – was just the beginning of a full-scale British invasion. Awaken your inner anglophile with quirky, quintessentially English accents that take trad motifs in a rad new direction. KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON 16" X 20" FRAMED PRINT $69, SOHO FRAMING, TORONTO, 416-531-2047; SOHOFRAMING.COM.

1 EMMA BRIDGEWATER 4-CUP UNION JACK TEAPOT $128, WYNNBURN MARKETING, 800-540-3608; EMMABRIDGEWATER.CO.UK.

2 13½" ACRYLIC QUEEN CLOCK $50 US, NAKED DECOR, WASHINGTON, D.C., 202-256-4065; NAKEDDECOR.COM.

3 20" WIRE-FRAME BIG BEN $42, TORRE & TAGUS DESIGNS, 800-423-4417; TORRETAGUS.COM.

4 16" SQUARE LONDON BRIDGE SILKSCREENED COTTON CANVAS CUSHION $50 US, NAKED DECOR.

5 17" X 35" X 59" UNION JACK TUFTED OTTOMAN $3,000, CAMILLA HOUSE IMPORTS, 800-661-0257; MISSISSAUGA, ONT., 905-564-5433; CAMILLAHOUSE.COM.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE RHODES (TEAPOT, CUSHION)





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seeing green

The trend forecasters at Benjamin Moore are calling for a 100% chance of green – Cedar Green, to be precise. The fresh, yellow green hue (2034-40) represents renewal, says Benjamin Moore colour expert Sharon Grech, and is predicted to make a splash as we dive into a brave new decade of design. "On its own, Cedar Green can contribute a vibrant pop to a room, or create a softer look when paired with neturals," she says. "It's also a perfect foil for bright contrasts, like deep blues and orangey reds." BENJAMIN MOORE, 800-361-5898; BENJAMINMOORE.CA.



BRING IT HOME

Love the colour, but afraid to commit? Introduce smaller-scale shots of Cedar Green with these options.



ON A FOCAL WALL

SHAND KYDD COLLECTION LANCASTER BC1581405 WALLPAPER $42 PER ROLL, BLUE MOUNTAIN WALLCOVERINGS, 800-539-5399; DESIGNBYCOLOR.NET.



AS UPDATED HARDWARE

BUBBLE 1½" GLASS-AND-BRASS KNOB $10, ABBOTT, 800-263-2955; ABBOTTCOLLECTION.COM.



AS A SLIPCOVER

KARLSTAD ARMCHAIR COVER IN KORNDAL GREEN $150, ARMCHAIR $350, IKEA, 866-866-4532; IKEA.CA.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE RHODES (WALLPAPER)

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tartan it up

Pretty, preppy and perennially popular, plaids are topping our editors' holiday wish lists. By Brett Walther



TRAD GOES RAD "For an über-funky focal wall, nothing beats Marcel Wanders' plaid papers. Just shy of over the top, the sombre, achromatic colourway reins in Wanders' delicious irreverence." BRETT WALTHER, ASSOCIATE DESIGN EDITOR GRAHAM & BROWN MARCEL WANDERS COLLECTION AUDREY WALLPAPER IN CHARCOAL $140 PER ROLL, CROWN WALLPAPER & FABRICS.





WINTER WARMER "This woolly throw in a warm orangey palette has been on my wish list ever since I visited Ireland years ago!" LAURIE GRASSI, EXECUTIVE EDITOR JOHN HANLY 137 CM X 185 CM LAMBSWOOL THROW IN BEIGE, OCHRE, GREEN AND BRICK $129, OUT OF IRELAND.

A WEE DRAM "Only Ralph Lauren could come up with such a stylishly subtle way to make plaid match everything!" LAUREN MCPHILLIPS, WEB EDITOR RALPH LAUREN GLEN PLAID CRYSTAL SHOT GLASSES $35 PER SET OF FOUR, THE BAY.



CHALET CHIC "Trend meets tradition! These bargain buys meld au courant grey tones with a classic pattern." ANN MARIE FAVOT, DESIGN EDITOR STEVEN & CHRIS WOOL PILLOWS IN GREY PLAID $50 (13" X 22"), $60 (20" SQUARE), CANFLOYD TRADING.

GREAT SCOT "Tartan devotee Scot Meacham Wood is a San Francisco-based designer whose blog I read religiously for his witty take on the beauty and business of design." MARGOT AUSTIN, SENIOR DESIGN EDITOR SCOT MEACHAM WOOD THE ADVENTURES OF TARTANSCOT, TARTANSCOT.BLOGSPOT.COM; SMW DESIGN.



Know the difference between plaid and tartan? See **WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE RHODES (WALLPAPER ROLL, PILLOWS), ERIC TAGEN HOOTEN (HOLIDAY ROOM)

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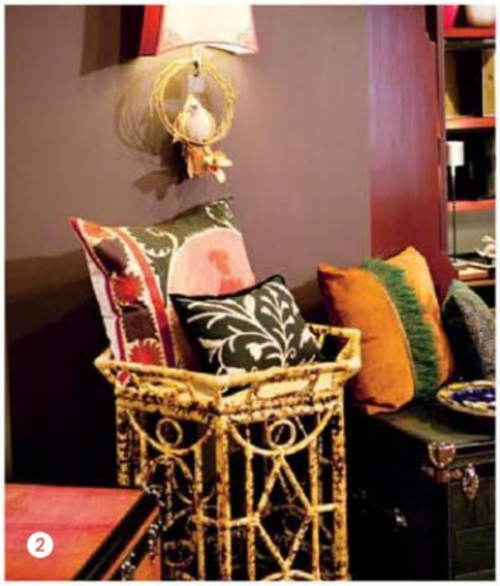
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ménagerie

SHOP OF THE MONTH

Overflowing with quirky accessories and top-of-the-line home goods, this Montreal boutique lives up to its name





1 GÉRALDINE GONZALEZ CUSTOM PAPIER MÂCHÉ-AND-WIRE CHANDELIER FROM $4,000. 2 ANTIQUE SUZANI CUSHIONS FROM $250 EACH. 3 JOHN DERIAN CERAMICS COLLECTION FROM $25.



WORLDLY WARES Nestled in the west end of Montreal's Sherbrooke Street and surrounded by museums and high-end shops is the wonderfully eclectic Ménagerie. "People from other provinces find it very different from what they're used to seeing," says Jon Joanisse, who runs the shop with business partner Anik Wilhelmy. Perhaps the reaction has something to do with the unique selection of homewares – the store carries lines from international designers like John Derian, Margo Selby and Sieger, resulting in a fab mix of styles from around the world.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? "The word *ménagerie* derives from French and originally meant 'an establishment of luxury and curiosity,'" says Jon. "It conveys everything we wanted our store to be." And a successful attempt, we'd say. Gorgeous glass paperweights with garden motifs, $60 each, reflect the curiosity, while Jon's custom-made furniture offers up the luxe.

CUSTOM DECORATING Although Jon and Anik run the store without any other employees, they still find the time to own a small firm offering decorating services. "We thought there was a void in eclectic design services in Montreal that needed to be filled," Jon says. Clients can expect to see their homes primped with Ménagerie's top sellers, like their vast line of cushions from Dransfield & Ross and Kevin O'Brien (from $145 each).

1634 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, 514-846-7999; menageriehome.com →

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MONIC RICHARD

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FRENCH COUNTRY • Maggie Czinski
School teacher Maggie's polished look and organized style come through in the way she decorates her home. She likes things neat and tidy, with everything meticulously put in its place.

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Use and remove Command™ Hooks without damaging your walls.



PREVENT COSTLY ERRORS
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cosy traditional

Take one step inside **ACHESON'S** Orangeville store, and you'll feel as if you're at home. With a 2,600 sq. ft. layout, Dianne Acheson's decor and clothing store isn't just a retail space but a place to mingle with the staff. "For my birthday, we had a four-day celebration – we drove customers around in a limo, sipping champagne, and bought them all lottery tickets," says Dianne. Events like that are not uncommon, and Dianne feels it's all part of the customer experience. But let's not forget the great selection of yummy home goods. Looking for Waterford Crystal? Check. Cosy throws for winter? Double check. With items starting from $0.99 (votive candles) and going up to $6,000 (beautiful French buffet), Acheson's showcases a wonderful mix of high and low, with a ton of personality to top it off. *78 First St., Orangeville, Ont., 519-940-4719; 16 Elora St., Harriston, Ont., 519-338-3230; achesons.ca.*



JUST FYI... Acheson's was voted Retailer of the Year in 2008 by the Canadian Gift and Tablewares Association (CGTA).



holiday gift bonanza

Tableware and journals and gift wrap – oh my! Toronto's **REDLETTER** gift store is situated in the heart of Yorkville, the perfect location for stopping by while doing some holiday shopping in the upscale area. Whether you're popping in to grab a hostess gift for a party or looking for the final touch to place on an already-wrapped gift, RedLetter has a little something for everyone on your list. Opened in 2008, the 1,200 sq. ft. space is packed with thoughtful gifts and last-minute saviours, ranging from luxe candles to bedside carafes. Can't make it to the store? Not a problem – in 2010, owner Dale Kubota is expanding her gifting mecca by creating an online shopping site. *128 Cumberland St., Toronto, 647-340-7294; redletterstore.ca*

DON'T MISS IT...

1 Voluspa home fragrances, from $30
2 Italian leather journals, from $45
3 English chintz bone china, from $30

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Contest starts September 22nd and ends December 31st, 2009. No purchase necessary. Mathematical skill-testing question required. Open to legal residents of Canada who are age of majority. To enter visit www.mochasofa.com/takecommand. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received. There is one (1) prize package to be won: a design consult and $2,500 to beautify your walls. Approx. value of prize package $3,500 CDN. Void where prohibited. See website at www.mochsofa.com/takecommand for further details and official contest rules.

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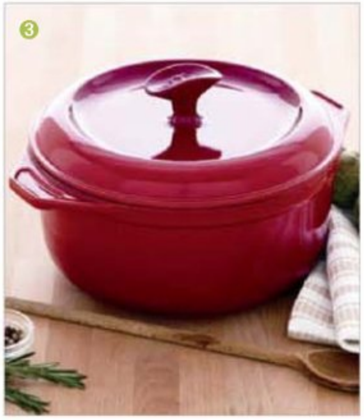
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Holiday GIFT GUIDE

From decor to technology to kitchen must-haves, here are some of the top picks for holiday gifts this season.







❶ Elizabeth Arden Pretty Irresistible. Charming. Feminine. Pretty surrounds you and makes you smile. The final touch, the invisible must-have accessory. A fragrance that makes you feel pretty. Every day, everywhere. Every woman wants to feel pretty.

❷ Create your atmosphere with a Glade® Scented Candle in Apple Cinnamon, French Vanilla, Homemade Gingerbread™ or Bayberry Spice and fill your room with holiday cheer.

❸ PC® French Enamelled Cast Iron Cookware is a chic, practical addition to any well-stocked kitchen. Heavy-duty cast iron conducts heat well and cooks evenly on almost any heat source, making it ideal for slow-cooked sauces, braised meats and hearty stews. Round Casserole 24 Red $79.99; Oval Dutch Oven 31 Red $89.99.









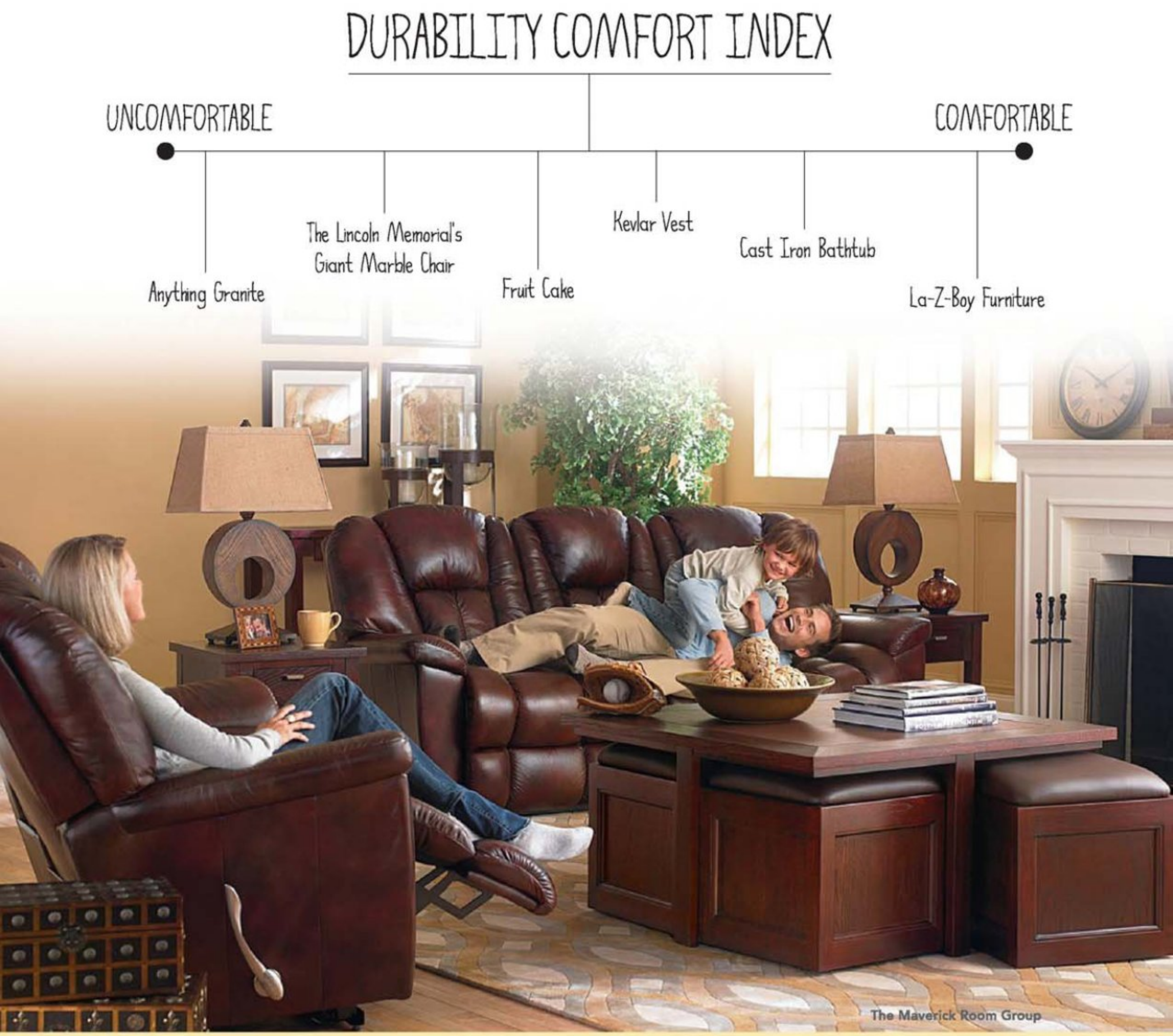
❹ This all-in-one STANLEY toolbox will make every job a little easier. With it's large wheels and fold down handle, traveling with with your power tools and hand tools has never been so convenient. Featuring a slide down door with an easy shut snap for your security. $24.96.

❺ [yellow tail] BUBBLES Rosé is the perfect choice to clink with pink to the holidays, savour a fresh and uncomplicated glass of this sparkling pink treat! www.yellowtailwine.com.

❻ Pottery Barn Photo Frame Carousel Showcase favorite snapshots with our smooth turning frame carousels. Each one has six frames that hold 4" x 6" photos. Weighted base stands securely, acetate sleeves protect images. Pewter-finished, 9.5" x 8.5" x 14" h; (holds twelve 4" x 6" photos) $99.

❼ IKEA RÖNÅS candlestick These aluminum candlesticks are sleek and modern displayed in pairs or in larger groupings. They have soft rubber feet underneath to protect delicate tabletops. Designer: Ehlen Johansson. Sizes: 18cm. $4.99 each, 23cm. $6.99 each, 28cm. $9.99 each.

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decorating



happy homecomings

In historic Guelph, Ont., holiday decorating styles are as varied as the architecture. Here are nine ways to dress up your doors

By Josette Blackwood
Photography by Robin Stubbert

square appeal

Homeowner Helen Grant chose a square wreath to pick up on the 1950s bungalow's linear design. She sprayed it bright silver as a contemporary twist on traditional red and green.

DOOR
JET BLACK 2120-10, BENJAMIN MOORE

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new again

Repurposing is easier than you think. Liz Schroeder flipped fibreglass pedestals upside down for instant urns. They were gussied up with a mix of greenery that complements the red-and-green door of her 1872 Georgian.

DOOR
DULUX 14YR,
CIL PAINTS





one-stop shopping

Danielle Pickfield bought a President's Choice garland, wreath and contemporary planter at Zehrs for her 1915 Edwardian home. Cost: $75. Decorating time: 4 minutes!

DOOR
MUSKOKA DUSK
CC-6, BENJAMIN
MOORE

eco-friendly cheer

Buying local makes sense year-round. Phil Thatcher's wreath was made using grapevines and red holly berries from a nearby nursery. The colour contrasts beautifully with the soft shade of green on his 1890 Queen Anne revival home. →

DOOR
EUCALYPTUS TREE
10GY 30/104,
CIL PAINTS

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let it snow

Treat a stately entrance with simple snowflake motifs. Graphic flakes brighten the dark door and soften its lines. Potted evergreens topped with gold snowflakes have a rustic yet charming look. →

DOOR
NIGHT SHADE
740F-7, BEHR

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personal flair

Wendy MacDonald makes eclectic wreaths from natural materials for her late 1850s Georgian. This year, she added seashells, plus a purple plaid ribbon in a nod to her Scottish roots.

DOOR
KICK BACK
P5141-73D,
PARA PAINTS



star treatment

These 3-D creations were made from plywood by shop teacher Peter Hoult and spray-painted gold by his wife, Susan Vickers, for their 1880s Italianate house. Strung on fishing line, the stars drift magically in the wind. →

DOOR
SOIRÉE P5193-85,
PARA PAINTS



Get **inspired** for the Holidays with **Lynn Spence**



Watch our celebrity designer as she shares her fabulous holiday decorating and entertaining tips in a special series of online videos at homesense.ca.

And while you're there, check out the **Home for the Holidays Countdown**, your daily interactive wish list where you can find exciting holiday decorating, entertaining and gift ideas at incredible prices.

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two for one

How do you decorate double doors? Instead of a wreath, Jennifer Leger chose a pair of urns that add a graceful touch to the neutral 1870s exterior.

DOOR
BLACK BEAN SOUP
2130-10,
BENJAMIN MOORE



theatrical theme

Use the arts as inspiration. To the delight of her grandchildren, Bernice Muma stationed 6' tall nutcrackers in front of her Georgian-style home.

WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160

DOOR
MAJESTIC VIOLET
2068-10,
BENJAMIN MOORE



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eat-in kitchen

the space Beth and Jack's kitchen and adjacent dining nook.

the challenge The outdated space wasn't inviting for entertaining, plus counter space was lacking and Beth's papers always covered the table.

the result A new kitchen, with an island for guests to gather, a desk area to contain clutter, and a cosy corner for eating and lounging.

By Samantha Pynn, host of HGTV's *Pure Design*



FRESH & WELCOMING White cabinetry and quartz countertops from IKEA give the space a clean, modern look. Mocha grey lacquer paint and oak butcher block make the island stand out. The couple chose stools with backs for comfort; we cut them down to the right height and painted them with black lacquer. →

PHOTOGRAPHY BY VIRGINIA MACDONALD. BEFORE SHOT BY JOHN QUEENAN. STYLING BY MALCOLM PATTERSON

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BUTCHER BLOCK The island is topped with Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) rated wood, which adds warmth to the space and contrasts with all the sleek surfaces. Black accents – the kitchen's peppermill and mortar and pestle, plus the dining nook's pendant light and picture and chair frames – unify the look.



the palette



BANQUETTE SEAT
GET INVOLVED IN SAND DOLLAR POLYHEMP, ROBERT ALLEN



LOUIS XVI-STYLE CHAIR BACK & THROW CUSHION
PADDOCK SHAWL ONYX, FABRICLAND



THROW CUSHION
CATS CRADLE IN LACQUER, ROBERT ALLEN



ISLAND CABINETRY
BARNBOARD S-1600 LACQUER PAINT, PRO GLO PAINTS

COMFY BANQUETTE The dining nook is not only a cosy place to eat but also to lounge and read the paper. The corner bench was built with 13" over-the-fridge cabinets (also from IKEA), then topped with 4" cushions to bring it to seat height. Seat cushions are secured in place with Velcro – no slipping! →

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To keep Beth's newspapers off the table (and make Jack happy – he's a self-confessed neat freak), we gave her a combination counter-height desk with TV and wine bar. Her existing wine fridge (she loves wine!) was retrofitted into the off-the-shelf cabinetry. We painted the stool red for a pop of colour that picks up on the dining area accents.



250
SQ. FT.

sam's eco picks

HEMP – AN ECO SUPERSTAR
Hemp grows rapidly and chokes out weeds. Its fibres are extremely strong, resulting in a highly durable fabric. For the banquette seat, we chose a hemp and polyester blend. You can also find it blended with cotton or linen.

FLATPACKED KITCHEN
It's hard to believe, but at the beginning of the reno, this kitchen was nothing but a stack of IKEA boxes. IKEA is a leader in environmental initiatives. By flatpacking most of its furniture and cabinetry, it reduces its shipping volume – and therefore emissions.

SUSTAINABLE FLOORING
We replaced the beat-up floors with Canadian-made bamboo flooring. Bamboo is a rapidly renewing resource, and it's more durable than even oak or hard maple.

WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160



PORTRAIT BY JOHN QUEENAN. ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT ROGERS

SAMANTHA PYNN, HOST OF HGTV'S *PURE DESIGN*

ABOUT *PURE DESIGN* We take a green approach to decorating. It's Season 2, and my team and I are busy transforming everyday rooms into sustainable living spaces with tons of personality. **MY METHOD** Rethink what you have, buy vintage, and research green products to make the best choices for you and your family. **CHECK OUT MY MAKEOVERS** on HGTV Tuesdays at 9 p.m. ET/10 p.m. PT. For more of my style tips, visit hgtv.ca.

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the entry

Too often, the foyer is just a space to pass through. Instead, make it the perfect place to create a statement and add subtle holiday magic. By Christine Hanlon



PHOTOGRAPHY BY LARA FISHBEIN

Greet guests with a seasonal scent in the foyer – try the new line of Febreze Winter Evening & Warmth Candles.

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WELCOME WINTER Style a wintry vignette with a unified palette and pieces that complement one another; include a natural element like fresh blooms.



DROP IT OFF Whether it's a table or a simple wall shelf, a flat surface is a convenient space to set the mail, empty your pockets and drop your bag.



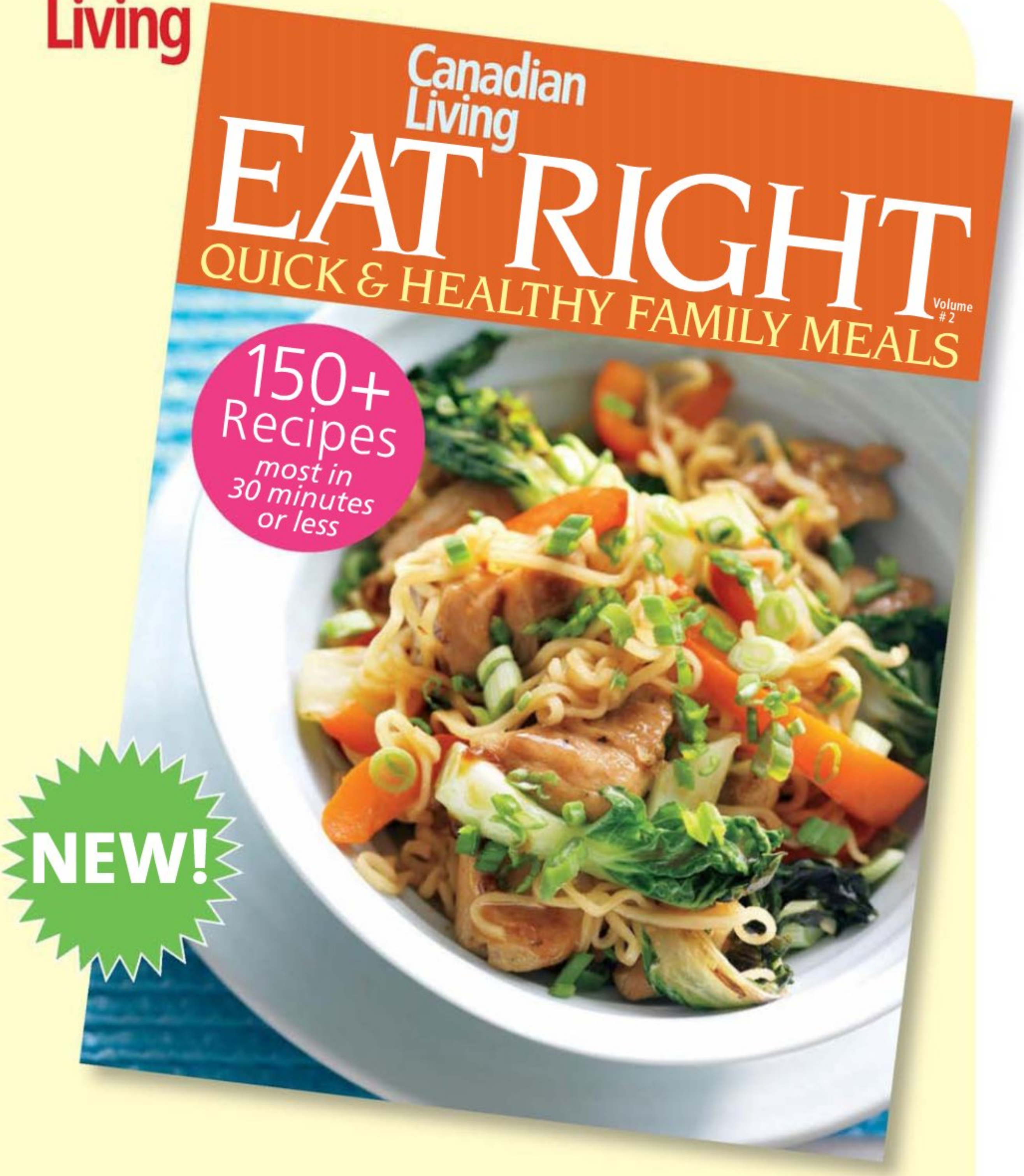
TAKE A SEAT Establishing a place to sit while putting on shoes should be high on the list when decorating your foyer. Try nesting a small bench (or a pair of small ottomans) under your table for an unobtrusive look.



KEEP IT TOGETHER A chic umbrella stand works for brollies and woollies alike, keeping rampant gear off the floor and outdoor items at the ready. →

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entryway solutions

Not every entrance has the space, shape or character needed to make a grand statement. But don't let that stop you – fashion your own fabulous foyer with a few key items.

for the nonexistent entry

PORTIÈRE Create an entrance space yourself with a dividing screen or by hanging sheer panels like these. FLYN OFELIA $40 PER PACK OF THREE, IKEA, 866-866-4532; IKEA.CA.



FRONT RUNNER Define your home's entryway with a durable floor runner. CHILEWICH RUNNERS FROM $190 EACH, ELTE, 888-276-3583; ELTE.COM.





STAND OUT Get the effect of a foyer by placing a coat rack near the entry. PORTIS HAT AND COAT STAND $40, IKEA.

for the narrow foyer

HANG IT Sturdy cast-iron hooks are perfect for hanging coats and handbags. $13 EACH, ABBOTT, 800-263-2955; ABBOTTCOLLECTION.COM.





SLIM JIM A thin basket is ideal for storage in a narrow space. $225, ANGUS & COMPANY, TORONTO, 416-537-4104; ANGUSANDCOMPANY.COM.

SLENDER SEAT Don your boots on a rustic bench with no shortage of natural charm. ASIAN BENCH $429, L'ATELIER, TORONTO, 416-966-0200. PARASOL $17, ABBOTT.



for the bland space



CALM CHARACTER An expressive carved statuary doubles as a doorstop. BLUESTONE PEACE MONK $180, 18KARAT HOME STORE, 888-849-8811; EIGHTEENKARAT.COM.

CONTINENTAL CUPBOARD Establish a focal point and stash away all of those bits and bobs in a striking cabinet. DYNASTY CABINET $549, CRATE AND BARREL, 888-657-4108; CRATEANDBARREL.CA.



VINTAGE PIECE Bring flair to your foyer with older pieces that have inherent character. VINTAGE DECO CHAIR $295, CYNTHIA FINDLAY ANTIQUES, TORONTO, 416-260-9057; CYNTHIAFINDLAY.COM.

WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160



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Ask *Sebastien*

"The tree is trimmed, the wine is chilled, the fragrance of cranberries and pine – change fills the air – and you're getting ready for your holiday dinner," says Sebastien Centner, one of Canada's leading home entertaining experts. "This holiday season, celebrate in style with a few contemporary twists on your traditional holiday dinner party."

Q: How can I create the right ambience so my guests really enjoy themselves?

A: A good host enjoys the party and her guests. So do things a day ahead: set the table, set up the bar – just leave the flowers and ice for the last minute.

Use placecards to strategically place your guests so everyone enjoys their dinner conversation. My favourite placecard is a gift box with the bottom cut out – position it over the first course to surprise guests.

Ensure your Febreze NOTICEables plug-in air fresheners are filled with the new Caramel Apple and Cranberry Frost refills, so when your guests walk through the door the atmosphere is set and the scent of the holidays is everywhere!

Q: What are the hottest colours for holiday decorating this year?

A: This year, we're seeing a shift towards single colours accented with neutrals, white or silver for a modern contemporary look. Traditional red combined with silver and white is a great palette for holiday 2009.



TIP Too many guests for your dining room table? Opt for a buffet style meal where guests can sit throughout the house, or switch to a cocktail party.

Q: My oven is small and I don't have much counter space. What could I serve instead of traditional turkey and still wow guests?

A: I would recommend full beef tenderloin, also known as Chateaubriand. Ask your butcher to cut you a length of tenderloin appropriate to the number of guests you're serving (about 8 to 10 ounces per person). Grill or roast, then slice at the table for a tender roast beef. Add baby green beans with a light butter drizzle, brown sugar-roasted baby carrots and Yukon-gold and sweet potato dauphinoise. Another alternative is a roast rack of lamb or lamb tenderloin, served with wild rice and diced sautéed winter vegetables.

Holiday Ornament Centrepiece – using tall vases you already have around the house, fill them with red, silver, and white (or white plus an accent colour) holiday balls, attractively placed down the centre of your dining table. Add a few Febreze Candles to your tabletop and it will glitter and shine.



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Enter online at: www.festivehome.ca

*No purchase necessary. Open to Canadian residents who are the age of majority in their province or territory at time of entry. Contest closes Nov 30, 2009. Skill-testing question required. Approx. retail value grand prize pkg $6,000 CDN and each secondary prize $110 CDN. Odds of winning depend on the total number of eligible entries received by contest closing date. Limit one (1) entry per person, per day. Visit www.festivehome.ca for full rules and entry details.

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fearless fabulousness

Distinctive decorating ideas from interior designer Kelly Wearstler. By Patricia Gajo

WHO Kelly Wearstler
HOME BASE Beverly Hills, Calif.
PROFESSION Interior designer
DESIGN TRAINING BFA, Massachusetts College of Art and Design



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF FRANÇOIS HALARD (INTERIOR), STEPHEN BUSKEN (CHINA). PORTRAIT COURTESY OF MARK EDWARD HARRIS



Not only is Kelly Wearstler one of the hippest interior designers in the biz (nobody does eclectic with her graphic, vibrant flair), this Beverly Hills babe and mother of two is on *Vogue*'s best-dressed radar. Catch Kelly as a design judge on Bravo's hit reality show *Top Design*, or channel her style into your own place via her home accessories. For coffee tables in need of a pick-me-up, Kelly's latest tome, *Hue* ($56, Ammo), is out just in time for the holidays. →

'70S EXTRAVAGANCE (above) Combining different textures and sculptural elements creates an eclectic vibe in this beach-inspired room. **MODERN ROCOCCO** (right) Mix and match china patterns for casual or formal events – the Kelly Wearstler for Pickard collection makes it easy!

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BOLD CHOICES Channel the drama of an Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton movie with strong statement pieces, like those Kelly Wearstler used in this master suite in Beverly Hills, Calif.





THE BOOK (above) In *Hue* ($56, Ammo, 2009), Kelly Wearstler presents vibrant spaces from both her home and other projects. **GO GRAPHIC** (right) Create a wow factor in a neutral interior with geometric patterns and shapes for a '70s vibe à la *Scarface.*

You've published two books, *Modern Glamour: The Art of Unexpected Style* and *Domicilium Decoratus* (both HarperCollins). Why a book about colour now?
Kelly Wearstler When you walk into a room, colour is the first thing you feel. I design from the heart, and colour and design are very emotional to me. Sometimes I start with colour, trying new combinations and palettes, and different values.

You've always been brave with your palettes. Have you had any second thoughts about something you've done?
Kelly Yes. I did a room in our former house in a beautiful grey dry-brush paint finish. When the space was done, I felt like it needed something bright; however, in the end, I decided to leave things as is. It's important to take into account all kinds of light, even natural light, as well as what's outside your windows. A lot of green from trees and shrubs can affect the overall tone.

What colours do you like for holiday decor?
Kelly Red and green aren't so exciting. There are richer colours like persimmon, squash and pomegranate – think of all those fruits and vegetables that are in season. That's more interesting to me, because it's unexpected.

What's your personal take on the holidays?
Kelly Although I don't really change up my home, the dinner table is important. For me, it's about presentation. I'm very selective; I won't just put flowers and plates on a table. I'll play with cool accessories and make it a little more avant-garde. Last year I placed six beautiful kaleidoscopes (we sell them at Bergdorf Goodman in various sizes) on the table; they looked like snowflakes.

Do you have any decorating traditions?
Kelly When I was a child, I always had an incredible Christmas tree. Now every Thanksgiving, my sons, Elliot and Oliver, and I decorate a tree or wreath. I don't use more than 12 different types of ornaments on a tree; otherwise it looks too fussy. It's like designing a room: things should interact nicely with one another.

Do you ever decorate with themes?
Kelly Not really, though last year I did the tree in gold, white and glass. I hung leftover gold ornaments we'd made for a charity event.

For some truly fab styling tips from Kelly, see **WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 169**

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF GREY CRAWFORD (TOP), FRANÇOIS HALARD (BOTTOM). BOOK COVER COURTESY OF MARK EDWARD HARRIS

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NO ONE KNOWS WHAT COLD SYMPTOMS YOU NEED TO TARGET **BETTER THAN YOU.**

Vicks Custom Care offers a product for whatever cold symptom you have, and none that you don't. And now, there's new Vicks Custom Care Body Aches and Vicks Custom Care Cough & Cold PM.

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Vicks Custom Care Body Aches: For temporary relief of cold and flu symptoms such as headache, fever, sore throat pain and body ache pain.
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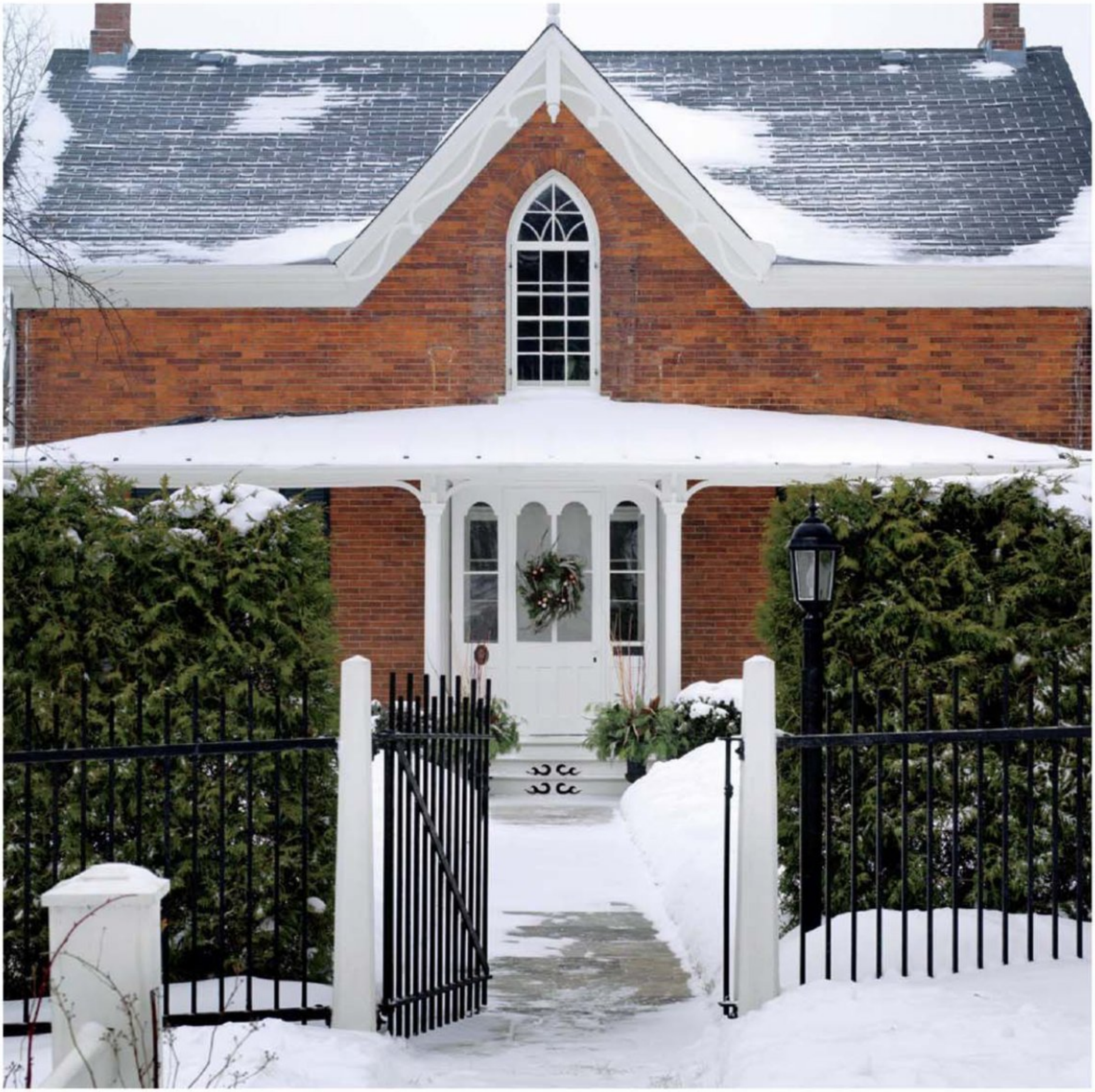
STAIRCASE SIMPLICITY Trim a graceful banister sparingly – with just a cedar swag and pinecone clusters. Mustard yellow walls, crisp white woodwork, plus rich red accents provide all the colour needed.

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIC Decorate a period exterior, like this 1857 centre-gable house, with symmetrical urns and a single wreath. Holton Flowers in Port Hope, Ont., incorporated gold and bronze balls, which complement the brick, and dogwood.



STYLING ASSISTANT, LAUREN FLANAGAN

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home for the holidays

Pared-back decorating and a focus on natural elements make this Victorian gem as picturesque as a Currier & Ives Christmas card

By Martha Uniacke Breen | Photography by Donna Griffith

Charles Wickett's home in the historic hamlet of Port Hope, Ont., is a picture-perfect blend of old-time charm and 21st-century comfort. Since he purchased the property, it has become the locus for holiday homecomings for the entire Wickett clan. "My family took one look at the home and decided this is where Christmas should be," Charles says with a laugh. When it comes to holiday decorating, he says, "I like to keep it low-key and natural." In fact, much of the seasonal decor comes from the garden, including cedar, pine boughs, dogwood and yew branches. And for an elegant home with a grand history, what could be more beautiful? →

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SEASONAL SCENT Fill your home with holiday fragrance. In Charles Wickett's dining room, freshly cut cedar and a balsam fir evoke the scents of Christmases past. The nutmeg tone in the Persian carpets inspired the wall colour, Farrow & Ball's Picture Gallery Red.

FRESH FORMAL Marry old and new for an elegant table. Charles combines antique family silver and crystal glasses with President's Choice Home Collection white tableware. A clove-studded orange adds a pop of colour and a mod nod to homemade Victorian decorations. →

"The sense of smell is an important part of Christmas – part of the 'natural' aspect of decorating for the holidays"

CHARLES WICKETT, OWNER

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MANTEL DRESSING Use fresh greenery from your backyard or purchased from a local market or florist. Holton Flowers layered cedar boughs, pinecones and citrus on the carved mantel in the dining room. White taper candles cast a soft glow.



COSY CORNER A lush magnolia wreath adorns the window sash in the nook off the dining room. The bronze underside of the leaves picks up on the warm tones of the room.

"I regard this as a family house –
it's a place to relax and enjoy"

CHARLES WICKETT, OWNER

For more about this historic home, see **WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 162**

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Montana Queen Size Bed $749, night stand $299, lamp $309
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living room

Create a cosy corner with a subtly stunning take on seasonal



HIGH Table: Cascading glass console table $495, Visitor Parking. **Lamp:** Whittier lacquered-resin lamp with handmade paper shade $395 US, Jonathan Adler. **Drapery fabric:** Villa Medici linen in Sage $102 (fabric for one 54" x 96" panel), Designer Fabrics. **Chair:** Sutter enamelled-wood chair $1,998, Art Shoppe. **Cushion fabric:** Prince Stripe linen in Spa $34 (fabric for one cushion), Designer Fabrics. **Throw:** Basket-weave polyacrylic throw in Blue Smoke $115, Pottery Barn. **Basket:** Havana arurog reed large basket $79, Pottery Barn. **Plates:** Wedgwood Queen's Plain earthenware plates $24 (dinner), $14 (side), William Ashley. **Tray:** Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams Chin Chin lacquered-wood nesting tray in Dove $135 per set of two sizes, Elte. **Bowl:** Celadon porcelain bowl $17, Crate and Barrel.

CHAIR
Art Shoppe, $2,000

LAMP
Jonathan Adler, $430

PLATES
William Ashley, from $14 each

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREW GRINTON. PAINT, RHODODENDRON GH20 (WALLS), RALPH LAUREN PAINT. WASTE NOT PAPER PURPLE WRAPPING PAPER, TEATRO VERDE. WOOSTER & PRINCE PATTERNED WRAPPING PAPER, REDLETTER

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LOW Table: Umo acrylic console table $390, Higher Ground Homes and Gardens. **Lamp:** Ceramic lamp $118, Union Lighting and Furnishings. **Drapery fabric:** PragueSN93/Spa linen $78 (fabric for one 54" x 96" panel), Designer Fabrics. **Chair:** Chinese Chippendale wooden chair $1,195 per pair, ChairTableLamp. **Cushion fabric:** AberdeebSD94/Spa cotton $14 (fabric for one cushion), Designer Fabrics. **Throw:** Polyacrylic throw $30, HomeSense. **Basket:** wicker basket $25, HomeSense. **Plates:** Arv stoneware plates $6 (dinner), $3 (side), IKEA. **Tray:** Steven & Chris lacquered-resin nesting tray $27, Canfloyd Trading. **Bowl:** Sophie Conran for Portmeirion porcelain bowl $10, Home Outfitters.

WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160

CHAIR
ChairTableLamp, $600

LAMP
Union Lighting and Furnishings, $120

PLATES
IKEA, from $3 each

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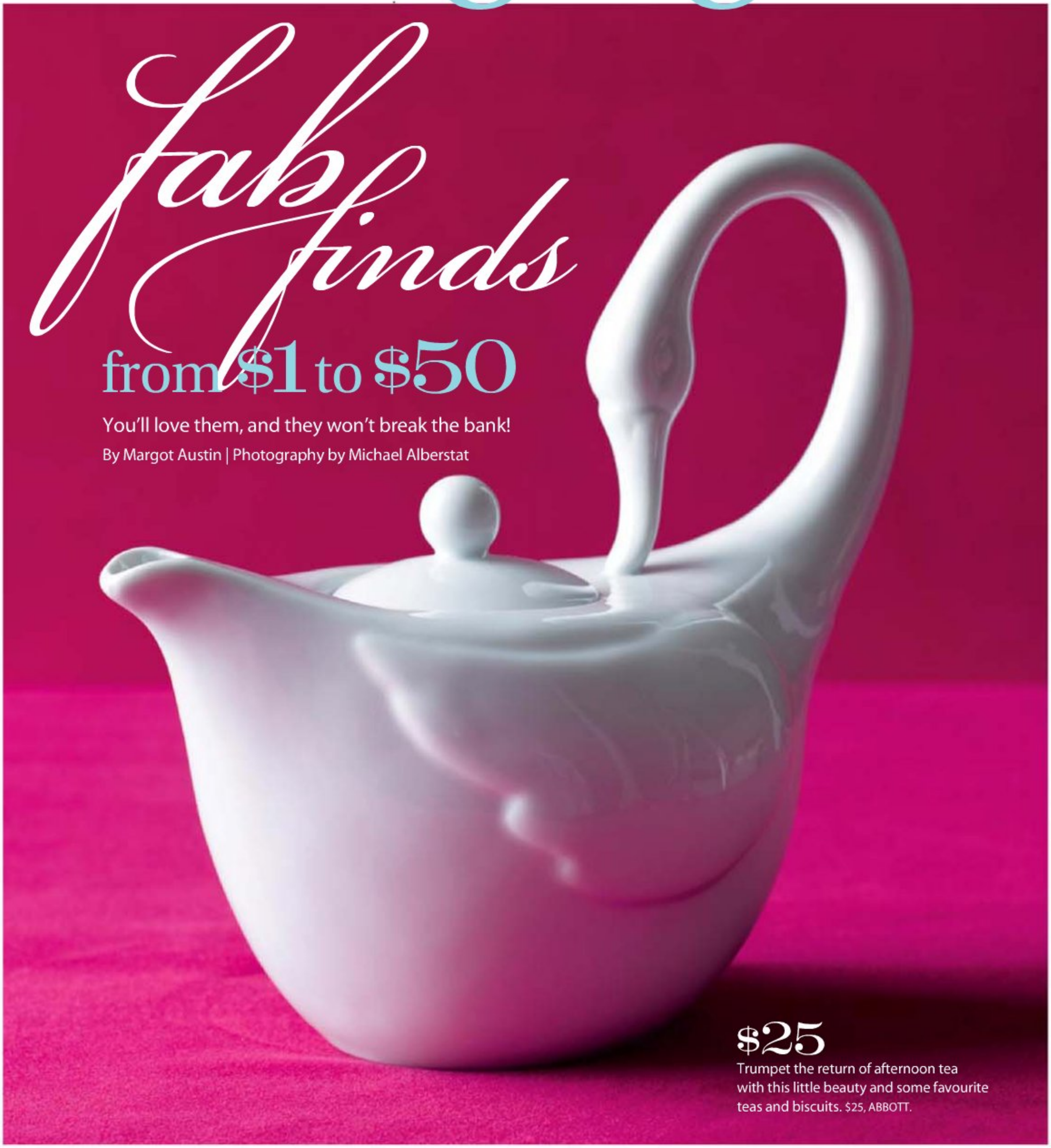
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gift guide



fab finds from $1 to $50

You'll love them, and they won't break the bank!

By Margot Austin | Photography by Michael Alberstat

$25

Trumpet the return of afternoon tea with this little beauty and some favourite teas and biscuits. $25, ABBOTT.

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$2

At this price, you can afford to fill this little piggy with cash. $2, DOLLARAMA.

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$50

In stainless steel etched with a *faux bois* pattern, this ice bucket adds cool urban-lodge chic to any bar. GLUCKSTEIN-HOME, $49.99 (TONGS INCLUDED), THE BAY.



$50

A pure wool throw that looks like it's hot off a pair of knitting needles. IKEA PS VADMAL $49.99, IKEA.



$20

The appeal of hand-blown Murano without the precious price tag – plus, the glass is recycled! $20, ABBOTT.



$40

Give diamonds in that famous little blue box (hearts, spades and clubs also included). BOXED SET OF TWO DECKS OF PLAYING CARDS $40, TIFFANY & CO.



This platter looks as good empty as it does with keys and mail or hors d'oeuvres on it. $18, ABBOTT. **$18**

$13

For the fashion-forward traveller on your list: accessories in the season's hottest colour. PIERRE BELVÉDÈRE LUGGAGE TAG $6.95, PASSPORT HOLDER $12.95, ESSENCE DU PAPIER. →



$7

www.MagazinesDownload.com

$1

Model planes, trains and automobiles with a Scandinavian design vibe make great stocking stuffers. $1 EACH (UNASSEMBLED), DOLLARAMA.



$50

The ultimate analog classic, the men's Timex Easy Reader (with leather strap and Indiglo nightlight) was introduced in 1977 and just keeps on ticking. $49.99, TIMEX GROUP CANADA.





$10

Top the best-guest list by giving bottles bundled in Japanese-style fabric wrap. See Wine & Spirits (page 116) for our holiday value-wine picks. FABRIC WRAP $10, FUROCHIC.

A pretty mouth-blown glass carafe for wine, water or flowers, plus stackable glasses. IKEA PS BJUDA CARAFE $12.99, VÄNLIG GLASSES $4.99 PER SET OF SIX, IKEA.

$13

$5





$20

For the glove compartment or tote, this leather-wrapped handy helper looks more haute than Home Depot. SWING EXECUTIVE FLASHLIGHT $19.99, DESIGN HOME GIFT & PAPER.



$10

Savour memories with a custom book filled with your photos and words. Choose a template, add photos and captions, and send! FROM $10, KODAKGALLERY.CA, PICABOO.COM OR APPLE.COM/CA/ILIFE/IPHOTO.

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$35

Handmade in Victoria, adorable Koo & Poppet bunnies have names and personalities. Meet Elliot (left), who likes drawing and dislikes erasing, and Portia (right), who likes virtue and dislikes conflict. $35 EACH, KOO & POPPET. →

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$4

Buy multiples – we don't know anyone who wouldn't enjoy a set! BAMBOO TOAST TONGS $3.95, CRATE AND BARREL.



$5

You'll want to display these attractive tubes of extra-long matches on your mantel. $5 EACH, ABBOTT.

$30

Inspiration from the decorating sages is a bid away on eBay. Our fave vintage titles: *Decorating is Fun!* by Dorothy Draper, *Mark Hampton on Decorating*, *Billy Baldwin Decorates* and *David Hicks on Living – with Taste.* FROM $30 EACH, EBAY.





$10

Découpage delights to pretty up a home office. FROM $10 EACH, SAMACO TRADING.



$12

Hamam-style guest hand towels bring a spa touch to any bath or powder room. $12 EACH, WEST ELM.



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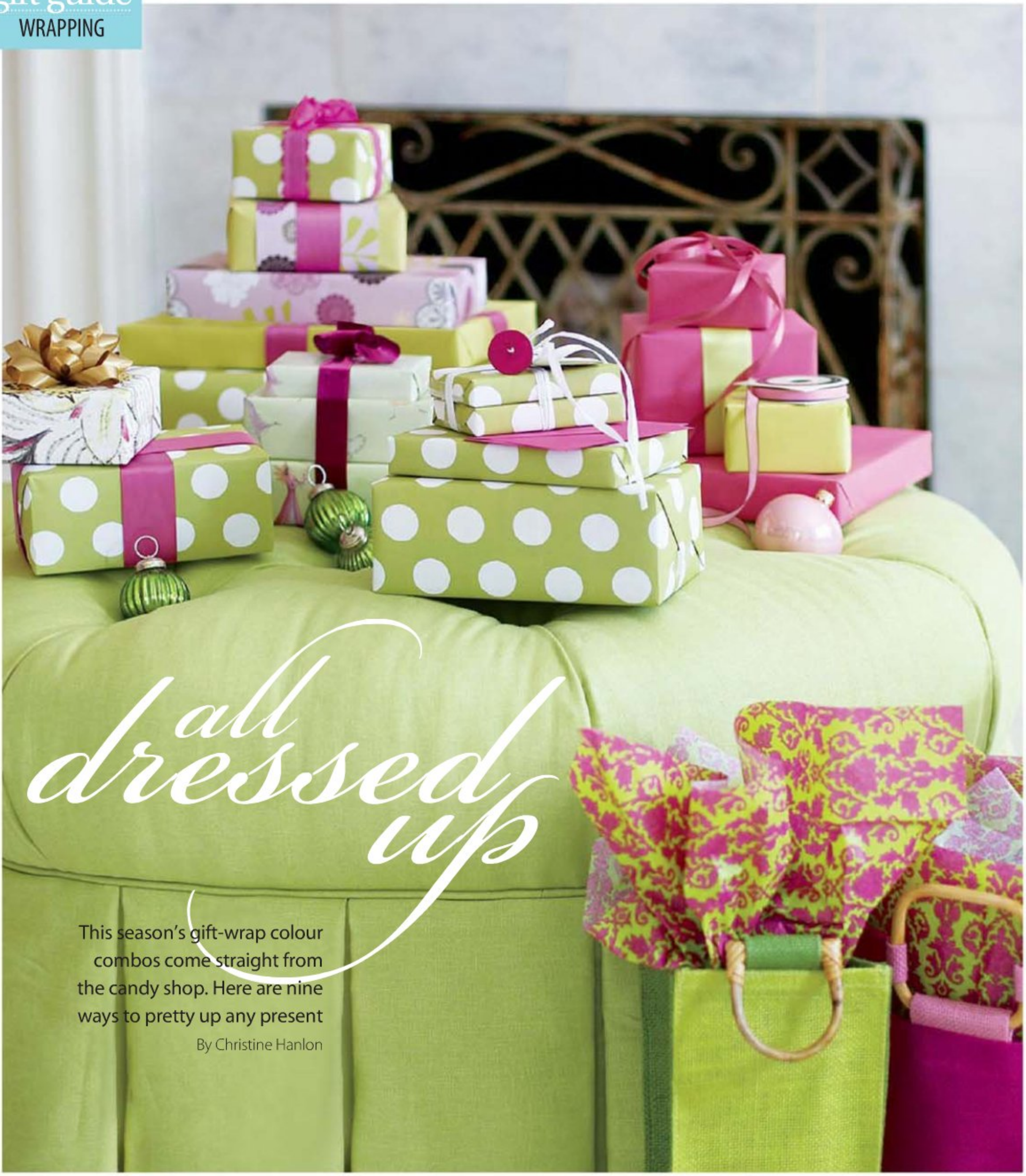
For Lego lovers and architecture buffs of all ages. LEGO 7" EMPIRE STATE BUILDING $30, HOLT RENFREW.

For sources and more gift ideas, see **WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160**

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all dressed up

This season's gift-wrap colour combos come straight from the candy shop. Here are nine ways to pretty up any present

By Christine Hanlon

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL CHMIELOWIEC

hot combo: LIME + PINK

EYE CANDY Red and green are holiday classics, but why not try a twist on traditional? Pops of lime and bubble-gum pink offer a yummy alternative. →

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hot combo: FUCHSIA + TURQUOISE



GO GRAPHIC For a fun and fresh look, paper your parcels in a bold, graphic print or with a holiday motif.

BEAUTIFUL BOXES Give your gifts a luxe touch by putting them in already-gorgeous boxes from high-end stores. Skip wrapping, stick on a bow, and you have a perfectly packaged present!!





LOVELY LEFTOVERS Save paper (and some cash!) by wrapping some gifts in remnants of stylish wallpaper.

BAGGED GOODS Keep pretty gift bags at the ready. To dress up a gift card, place it in a cardboard pillow box tied with a bow for a special touch. →



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hot combo: RED + SOFT BLUE



TOPPED WITH TEXTILES Put leftover pieces of fabric from a makeover project to use this holiday – a lovely patterned fabric makes a terrific textured wrap.

THE GIFT IS THE WRAP Is your gift pretty enough as is? Then make it part of the wrap! These faux croc organizer boxes look fabulous when stacked and finished with a silky blue ribbon.





SIMPLY SWEET Take your gifts the traditional route with wintry-themed gift wrap topped with a sweet surprise of candy cane or mini-ornaments.



THINK GREEN

THE LAST SCRAP Use up every piece of paper with this chic layered look – take remnant strips of wrap to create a band that gives gifts a tailored edge.

WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160

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wired wish list

Find out what goodies *Style at Home* editors hope to find under the tree. By Lauren McPhillips



MULTIMEDIA ON THE GO ▶
"Perfect for browsing the web or watching DVDs during the morning commute. The colours are cute to boot!" MELISSA GEURTS, GRAPHIC DESIGNER MINI 10 FROM $399, DELL, DELL.CA.



◀ TOUCH-SCREEN CLOCK RADIO
"The display on this compact radio only lights up when you touch it." LAURIE GRASSI, EXECUTIVE EDITOR GENEVASOUND S IPOD/IPHONE SOUND SYSTEM WITH ALARM CLOCK AND FM RADIO $479, GENEVASOUND, GENEVASOUND.COM. →

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Microsoft

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Portion control, not fun control.

The majority of Canadian dietitians agree that occasional treats have a role to play in a balanced diet for children, and that treating is an important part of parent-child relationships. However, portion size is key with treats.

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gift guide
TECH STYLE



◀ RECORDING PEN

"Records audio and links it to your handwritten notes or drawings, so you won't miss a word. Tap on your notes and hear what was said while you were writing." DENISE BARNARD, SENIOR EDITOR PULSE SMARTPEN FROM $150 (1 GB), LIVESCRIBE, SMARTPENCENTRAL.COM.

HYBRID BABY GRAND ▼

"An electronic version with a hammer-action keyboard. It weighs two-thirds of the real thing and doesn't need tuning." BRETT WALTHER, ASSOCIATE DESIGN EDITOR AVANT GRAND N3 PIANO $20,499, YAMAHA, YAMAHA.CA.



ADVENTURE-PROOF CAMERA ▼

"Tough enough to strap onto my pack while I ski, snowboard, paddle or bike." JENNIFER KRISSILAS, COPY CHIEF POWERSHOT D10 DIGITAL CAMERA $429, CANON, CANON.CA.



For another staff pick, see
WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 168

TABLETOP TRIPOD ▲

"Finally, no more balancing my camera on a stack of books when it's on autotimer." MARGOT AUSTIN, SENIOR DESIGN EDITOR CAMERA TRIPOD $1.25, DOLLARAMA, ACROSS CANADA.



◀ MULTITASKING MARVEL

"Scan, archive, print and share slides and portraits wirelessly via the touch screen." JULIA ARMSTRONG, SENIOR EDITOR HP PHOTOSMART 8180 ALL-IN-ONE $379, HP, HP.CA.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE RHODES (TRIPOD)

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Step 1: Cut Here

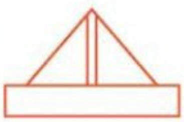
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Step 3: Fold Here

Step 3: Fold Here

Step 2: Fold Here

Have you played today?



Step 5: Got a head? Wear a hat.

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gifts for foodies

The perfect present for every food lover on your list

By Julia Armstrong



1



2



3



4



5



6

7



1 for julia child fans The next best thing to Le Cordon Bleu cooking school: DVDs of Julia Child's 1963-73 TV series, *The French Chef*. **BONUS** For a truly special gift, put them in the same pot used in the movie *Julie & Julia*. As Child would trill, "Bon appétit!" WGBH BOSTON VIDEO *THE FRENCH CHEF WITH JULIA CHILD VOL. 1* $27, INDIGO AND CHAPTERS, CHAPTERS.INDIGO.CA. ENAMELLED CAST-IRON 6.9 L ROUND FRENCH OVEN IN FLAME $375, LE CREUSET, LECREUSET.CA.

2 for avid readers A culinary utensil bookmark will delight both gourmets and bookworms. RAS COLLECTION STAINLESS STEEL KITCHEN SERIES BOOKMARKS $16 EACH, THE TATE GROUP, TORONTO, 416-504-8047; THETATEGROUP.COM.

3 for busy families A slow cooker is the hockey mom's best friend – on game nights, dinner's ready right after work. This one also saves time and cleanup at the front end: do the initial meat browning step right in the removable, stovetop-safe cooking pan. PREMIERE COOKWARE STOVE TOP SLOW COOKER $99, HAMILTON BEACH, HAMILTONBEACH.CA.

4 for kitchen-kitsch collectors Inspired by Russian nesting dolls, these dishwasher-safe measures (a pinch to 1 cup) look charming on the countertop. MATRYOSHKA MEASURING CUPS $31 PER SET OF THREE, ANTHROPOLOGIE, ANTHROPOLOGIE.COM.

5 for fashionistas The two 20-somethings behind Domistyle enjoy hosting chic soirées, so for gals like them they designed an apron line with fresh colours and patterns. Optional: cheeky embroidered messages like "Caution: Hot Dish." FUNKY DOTS APRON $39, DOMISTYLE, 866-587-5094; DOMISTYLEGIFTS.COM.

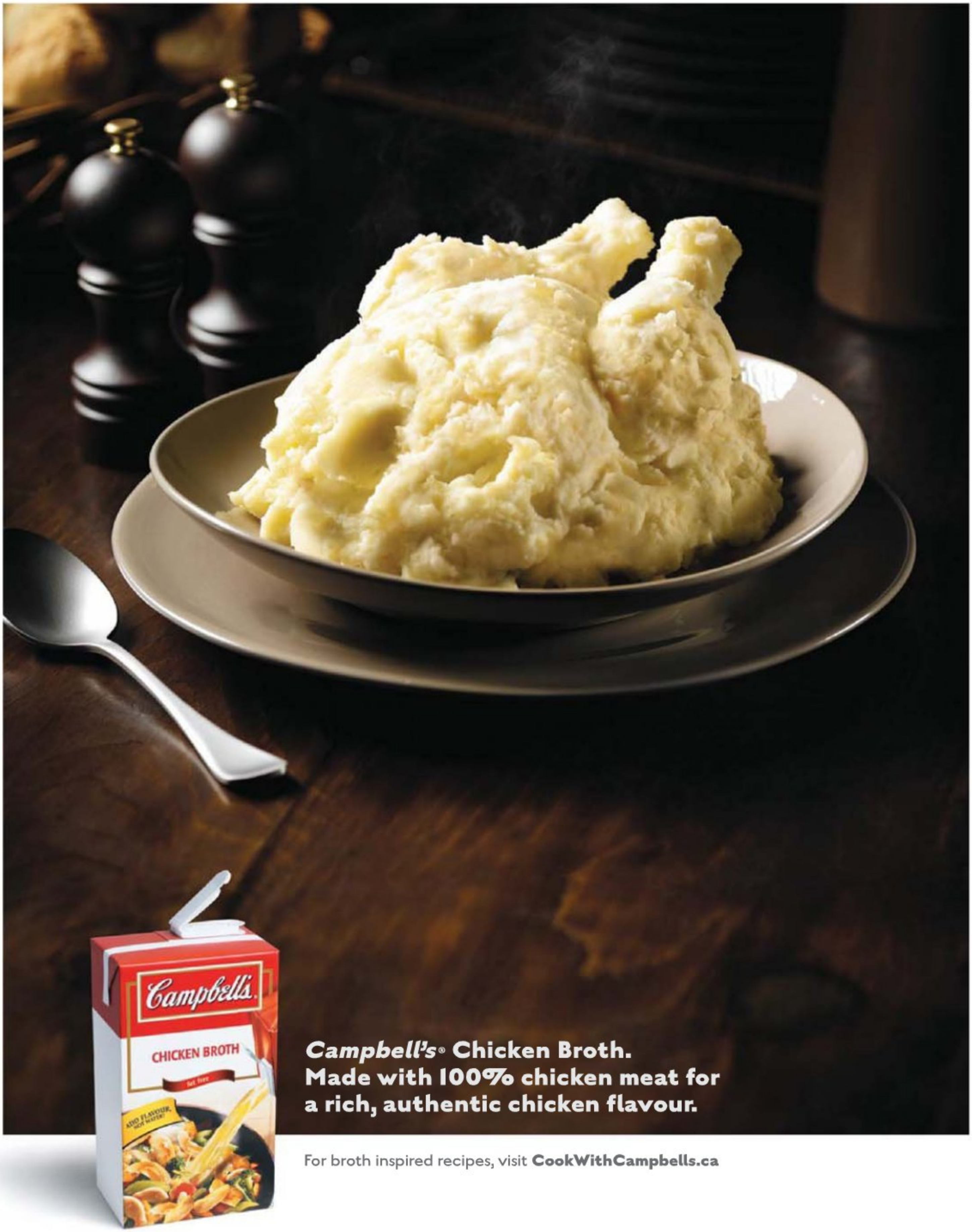
6 for gourmets The Santoku is a Japanese version of the chef's knife, lauded for its precision and balance. *Santoku* means "three virtues" – a reference to its suitability for chopping, dicing and mincing. Grooves on the blade (Granton edge) prevent sticking. WENGER DELEMONT FORGED SANTOKU KNIFE $110 (5" BLADE), $130 (7" BLADE), SWISSMAR, 877-947-7627; SWISSMAR.COM.

7 for budding locavores Give a gift that keeps on growing – certified organic microgreens. Add water to the coir disk (no soil needed!), sprinkle seeds over top and in about a week sprouts are ready to add to sandwiches and soups. TERRACOTTA ORGANIC SPROUTING KITS IN ITALIAN ARUGULA AND CURLY CRESS $15, SERACON, 800-465-1818; SERACON.CA.

For more foodie fun, see
WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 168

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE RHODES (FRENCH OVEN WITH DVD, BOOKMARKS, APRON)

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entertaining



PHOTOGRAPHY BY WILLIAM GEDDES FROM *SIMPLY STUNNING PARTIES AT HOME* BY KAREN BUSSEN (STEWART, TABORI & CHANG, 2009)

festive nibbles

Toast the holidays with a chic and cheerful cocktail party

"Although the holidays are busy and bustling, I always take time to get together with friends, coworkers and family to celebrate," says entertaining expert Karen Bussen. She shares her recipes for tasty hors d'oeuvres and drinks that won't blow your budget, and easy ways to set a buffet table.

RUDOLPH FIZZ Greet guests with a bubbly aperitif in champagne flutes. This one's easy – just sparkling wine and a splash of homemade cherry syrup.

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the setting

Choose a fresh, winter-inspired colour theme: snowy white as a base, with glimmering silver and glossy red accents.

PLAYFUL PLATFORMS
Fill glass vessels with ornaments or candies. Place platters on top for a multitiered display.

CROWD CONTROL
Pour a few drinks before guests arrive so they can help themselves. Or set up a bar at one end of the space to avoid crowding.

INSTANT GLITZ
Use mirror tiles (available at home supply stores) instead of linens. Bonus: They reflect candlelight.

the menu

Serve a couple of hors d'oeuvres, festive drinks and pâtisserie sweets.

THE APERITIFS
Rudolph Fizz
Champagne (luxe choice) or Cava or Prosecco (more economical yet still festive)

THE NIBBLES
Mini Smoked Salmon Sandwiches
Shrimp and Crab Bisque with Parmesan Croutons
Fine Chocolates, Petits Fours and Gingersnaps

RUDOLPH FIZZ

Launch the party with a sparkling aperitif named after everyone's favourite reindeer. "I like to start cocktails earlier rather than later," says Karen. "If you're hosting on the weekend, begin at five or so, as it allows for other plans afterward. On weeknights, work schedules make it impossible for anyone to arrive before six, but that still leaves ample party time and an early night for those who work or have a dinner reservation."

1 bottle (750 mL) Prosecco or other sparkling wine

CHERRY SYRUP **(makes 2¼ cups)**
1 lb frozen dark sweet cherries
2 cups water
1 cup granulated sugar

Cherry Syrup: In small saucepan over high heat, stir together cherries, water and sugar. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes or until mixture is thickened and reduced by about half. Pour through fine strainer, reserving liquid and discarding skins. Refrigerate until ready to use (it should keep for several weeks).

Pour Prosecco into 6 champagne flutes until three-quarters full. Drop 1 tsp Cherry Syrup in each and serve. **Makes 6 cocktails**

MINI SMOKED SALMON SANDWICHES

"I've found that if you serve foods in smaller portions at parties, people seem to enjoy them more," says Karen. "Small bites, like these 'tea sandwiches,' are chic, fun and festive – not to mention less likely to spill."

12 slices white bread, crusts removed
3 tbsp olive oil
Salt and freshly ground pepper
4 oz cream cheese, softened

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Piece on earth

find joy in every slice of **philly** cheesecake

toblerone topped caramel cheesecake

prep 20 min. **total** 5 hours 30 min. **makes** 12 servings

1-1/4 cups	*Oreo* Baking Crumbs
1/4 cup	butter, melted
3 pkg	*Philadelphia* Brick Cream Cheese, softened (250g each)
3/4 cup	packed brown sugar
1 Tbsp	vanilla
3	eggs
1/3 cup	caramel ice cream topping
1 bar	*Toblerone* Swiss Milk Chocolate, coarsely chopped (100g)

HEAT oven to 350°F. Mix crumbs and butter; press onto bottom of 9-inch springform pan. BEAT **philly**, sugar and vanilla in large bowl with mixer until well blended. Add eggs, 1 at a time, mixing on low speed after each, until blended. Pour over crust. BAKE 40 to 45 min. or until centre is almost set. Run knife around rim of pan to loosen cake; cool before removing rim. Refrigerate 4 hours. Spread caramel topping over cheesecake just before serving. Garnish with chopped chocolate.



A LITTLE TASTE OF HEAVEN



cookingwithphilly.ca

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"It's a cocktail party, not dinner. **Keep foods bite-size and flavourful, and sweets simple and light"** KAREN BUSSEN, AUTHOR

2 tbsp prepared horseradish
Juice of 1 lemon
3 tbsp chopped fresh chives
6 oz cold-smoked salmon, such as lox, thinly sliced

Line baking sheet with foil or parchment paper. Brush each slice of bread with olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. Place slices on prepared baking sheet and toast in 400°F oven for 3 to 5 minutes or just until light golden. Remove from oven and let cool slightly.

In food processor, combine cream cheese, horseradish, lemon juice and chives. Pulse lightly to blend. Spread cream cheese mixture evenly on toasts. Top half of the toasts with slice of smoked salmon. Sandwich with remaining toasts. Cut sandwiches into quarters and serve at room temperature. **Makes 24 tea sandwiches**

SHRIMP AND CRAB BISQUE WITH PARMESAN CROUTONS

"I serve this creamy soup in lots of ways," says Karen. "For hors d'oeuvres, I present it in elegant small glasses, but it can also serve up to six people as an appetizer before a meal."

2 lb jumbo shrimp, heads on
6 tbsp butter
1 cup yellow onion, roughly chopped
1 carrot, roughly chopped
1 sweet red pepper, roughly chopped
2 cloves garlic, chopped
4 cups chicken stock
1 cup canned crushed tomatoes
2 sprigs tarragon
1 bay leaf
1 tsp cayenne pepper
¼ cup each fino sherry and Grand Marnier
2 tbsp all-purpose flour
1 lb lump crabmeat
16 oz light or fat-free evaporated milk
Salt and freshly ground pepper
Chopped fresh coriander leaves, for garnish

PARMESAN CROUTONS
6 slices good white bread, crusts removed, cut into ½" cubes
2 tbsp olive oil
¼ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
1 tsp garlic powder
Salt

Parmesan Croutons: Toss bread cubes with olive oil. Combine Parmesan, garlic powder and salt to taste. Sprinkle over bread, tossing gently to coat. Arrange cubes in single layer on baking sheet. Bake in 400°F oven, turning as necessary, for 8 to 10 minutes or until golden brown. Set aside.

Peel, devein and rinse shrimp, reserving shells. Pat dry and chop into small pieces. Set aside.

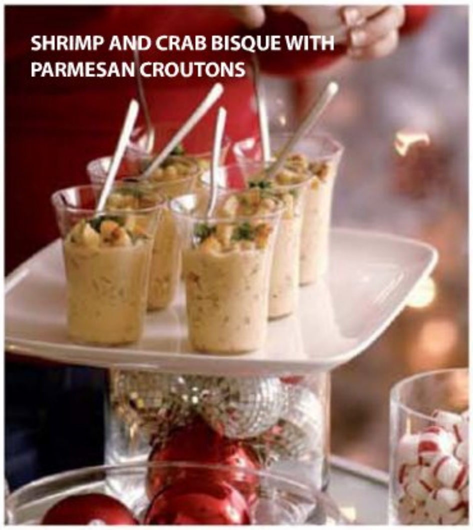
In large stockpot, melt butter over medium heat. Sauté onion until tender and translucent, about 3 minutes. Add carrot, red pepper, garlic and shrimp shells. Sauté for about 8 minutes or until all vegetables are softened.

Add stock, tomatoes, tarragon, bay leaf and cayenne. Carefully add sherry and Grand Marnier and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 40 minutes. Strain into clean pot and place over medium heat. Whisk in flour slowly and simmer for 5 minutes. Add shrimp and crabmeat and cook for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in evaporated milk. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Divide among small glasses. Garnish with croutons and coriander. Serve immediately. **Makes 10 to 12 hors d'oeuvres**

the music

Style at Home editors recommend their favourite recordings for holiday parties.

- **A Charlie Brown Christmas** by Vince Guaraldi. "We always play it when making dinner." *Jenn Houlihan, assistant editor*
- **A Perry Como Christmas.** "This album is essential background music at a festive open house. I also really love Diana Krall's **Christmas Songs** and Josh Groban's **Noel.**" *Brett Walther, associate design editor*
- **Ella Wishes You a Swinging Christmas.** "I like Ella Fitzgerald, so this is on my must-have list." *Denise Barnard, senior editor*
- If I could have only one holiday album, it would be Bing Crosby's **White Christmas.** *Margot Austin, senior design editor*



SHRIMP AND CRAB BISQUE WITH PARMESAN CROUTONS



MINI SMOKED SALMON SANDWICHES



In *Simply Stunning Parties at Home* ($36, Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 2009), entertaining expert and wedding planner Karen Bussen provides recipes and decorating inspiration for every occasion.

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heavenly set

A crisp canvas of wintry whites sets the stage for festive arrangements by florist Jane Packer. By Brett Walther



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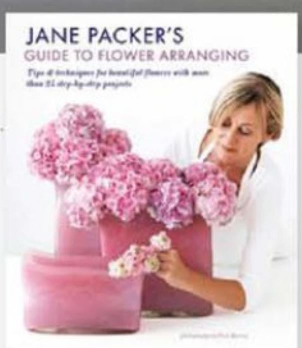


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Don't share Jane Packer's green thumb? No problem. The famed florist offers up secrets and step-by-step instructions in *Jane Packer's Guide to Flower Arranging* ($40, Ryland Peters & Small, 2008; rylandpeters.com).

GET THE LOOK

1 THREE-RING SILVER-PLATED NAPKIN RINGS $5 EACH, CRATE AND BARREL. **2** JASPER CONRAN AT WEDGWOOD WHITE BONE CHINA PLATES $30 (DINNER), $28 (SALAD), AND EMBOSSED STRATA BOWL $50, WILLIAM ASHLEY. **3** HIGHGLOSS FAUX APPLES IN WHITE $5 EACH, ABBOTT. **4** IITTALA ESSENCE CRYSTAL WHITE AND RED WINEGLASSES $25 EACH, THE FINNISH PLACE. WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL MASSEY (INTERIOR), STEVE RHODES (CHINA, FAUX APPLES), COURTESY OF CRATE AND BARREL (NAPKIN RINGS)

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$12 and under

Introduce your guests to a new world of wine. Here are 19 cellar-worthy bottles that won't blow your budget. By Konrad Ejbich





NORTH AMERICAN GIANT
E. & J. Gallo – the McDonald's of the wine business – produces consistent, affordable wines. Recommended brands include **Barefoot Cellars, Carlo Rossi, Dancing Bull, Turning Leaf** and **Wild Vines** fruit-flavoured wines. Almost all are under $10, and there's a style to suit every taste.

HOT "NEW" REGION

the other america

Many of today's best cheapies hail from the southern hemisphere.

ARGENTINA The most talked about wine in Canada last year was **FuZion Shiraz Malbec ($8),** as much for its low price as for its high flavour (good news: it's still available). This year, lovely seasonal **FuZion Syrah Rosé ($8)** blew through Ontario stores in less than a month, but it may make a return. **FuZion Chenin Blanc Chardonnay ($8),** a new white, is available year-round. The country's largest winemaker, **Bodegas Trapiche,** has terrific values, like the **Astica blends ($8)** and quality **varietal wines ($9).**

CHILE I'm most impressed with Tocornal's Cono Sur estate. Sustainable agricultural practices have yielded stunning results, especially noticeable in **Cono Sur Pinot Noir ($11)** and **Cono Sur Viognier ($10),** two tasty but intensely finicky grape varieties to grow.



Argentina FuZion Chenin Blanc Chardonnay $8



Chile Tocornal Cono Sur Pinot Noir $11

HOT "OLD" REGION

unexplored europe

France and Italy once dominated sales in most Canadian wine stores. Today, with new grape-management practices and advanced equipment, Portugal, Spain, Austria, Greece and Hungary offer better values than ever before.

PORTUGAL, SPAIN, GREECE Wines from these countries are often overlooked by shoppers. Case in point: **Fonseca Periquita ($10)** from Portugal and **Torres Sangre de Toro ($12)** from Spain have been around for so long they're taken for granted, but try them again and rediscover their charm. Also look for less well-known wines that have pleased local populations for centuries. **Sogrape's Gazela Vinho Verde ($9), Dão Grão Vasco ($9)** and **Vila Regia ($9),** along with **Aliança's Bairrada Reserva ($9), Foral Reserva ($9)** and **Terra Boa Tinto ($8),** provide a tasty tour of Portugal. From Greece, **Kourtakis Vin de Crete Red ($9)** is a favourite, especially with lamb.

AUSTRIA & HUNGARY Almost as good as Grüner Veltliner (my top pick, particularly with raclette), Austria's **Servús white ($10)** is a blend of Grüner Veltliner, Riesling and Pinot Blanc. Hungary's **Dunavar Pinot Blanc ($9)** offers clean, pleasant, honest flavour, while **Dunavar Muscat ($9)** has a more aromatic style. Both work wonders with casual dishes and lighter foods.



Portugal Sogrape Gazela Vinho Verde $9

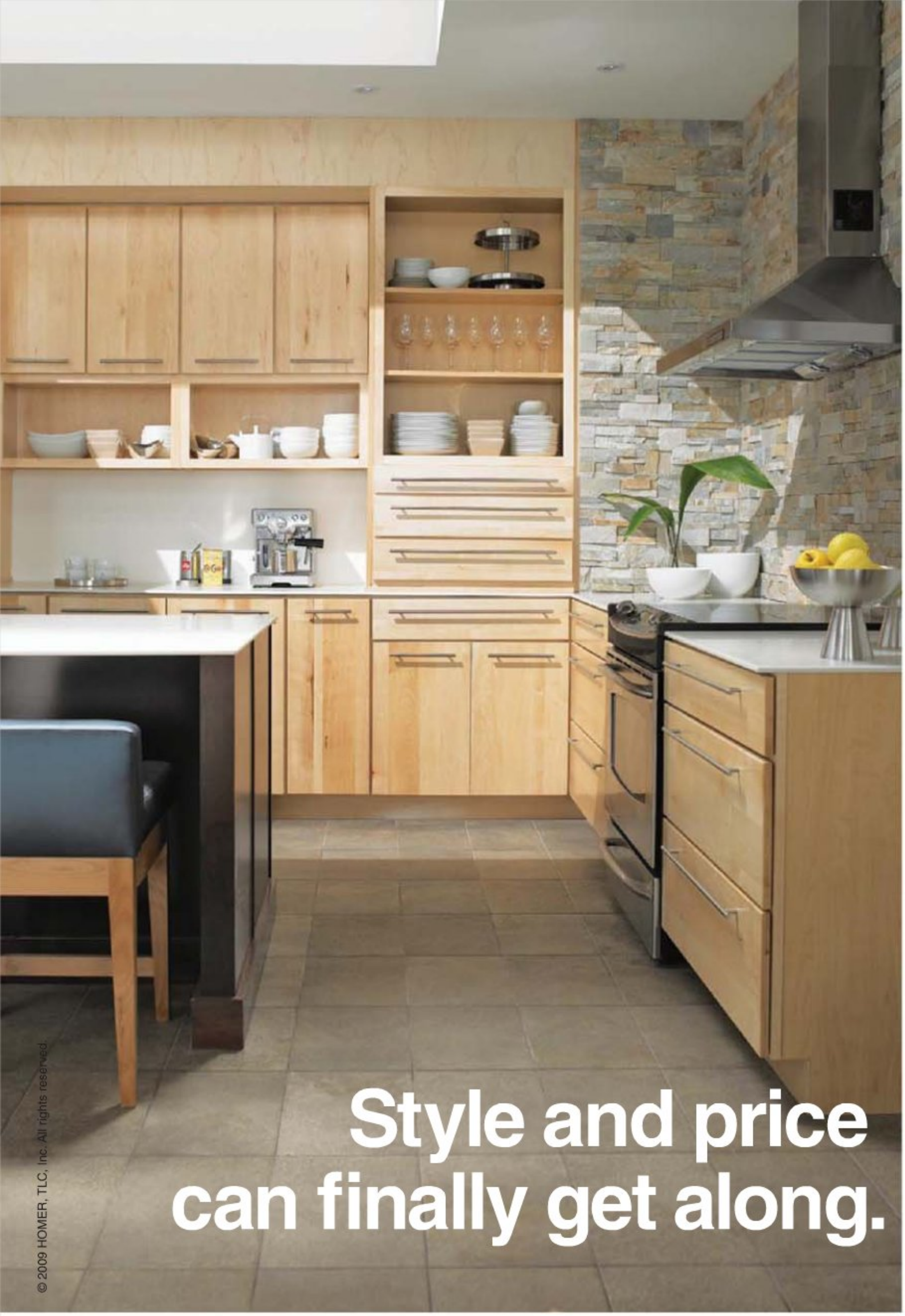


Spain Torres Sangre de Toro $12

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homes

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PLEASING PAIRINGS
The symmetrical Georgian architecture of designer Anne Hepfer's home lends itself to pairs, she says. Antique Venetian mirrors and python consoles flank the arched doorway.

tailored glamour

Fresh, fragrant greenery and a "mix it up" approach inspire designer Anne Hepfer's holiday decor

By Lesley Young | Photography by Michael Graydon

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INVITING TABLE A palette of white, gold and silver sets an elegant mood. Anne adorned the top of the antique armoire with cedar and juniper branches mixed with magnolia leaves and pheasant feathers. "It would also look great with peacock feathers," she says. →

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NEW-STYLE EVERGREEN
The artificial apples on the tree and mantel garland look so fresh with the living room's green accents. "This year, I chose a eucalyptus garland rather than pine," says Anne. "I don't like to be too matchy, and it adds another element to the room." →

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Christmas is a sentimental season for designer Anne Hepfer, who makes a point of spending the holidays at home – a 1933 brick Georgian in downtown Toronto – with her growing family. The mother of four young children, Anne decorates for the holidays guided by a desire to capture the wonder of Santa coming down the chimney, as well as seasonal flourishes that evoke traditional sights and smells for lasting memories.

Anne finds new inspiration every year at her local flower market, where she picks up garlands of magnolia or fragrant eucalyptus. "Eucalyptus smells divine. If you spray it with a water mister, the scent is enhanced," she says. "I use plants, organic materials and branches differently every year." She also dries arrangements and debuts them in new ways the following season, freshened up with sprigs of boxwood.

Anne suggests choosing a colour scheme for each room. "The more neutral the room, the more you can play with seasonal colour," she says. "If the space isn't neutral, use gold, silver, white or glass." This year, she tied together her



"Why decorate unless you can share with friends and family? **We always throw a Christmas party"**

ANNE HEPFER, DESIGNER & OWNER

SUBLIME CENTREPIECE A mirror reflects the florals Anne arranged in a silver bowl. "Sprigs of pine and green berries bring dimension to the soft amaryllis and roses," she says. Gold-sprayed pinecones and quartz votive holders add eclectic natural elements.

DESIGNER TREE The tree in the living room is laced with silver and green, including faux apples. "It's hard to find a nonkitschy tree skirt," says Anne. "Buy a round white cotton tablecloth, cut a slit to the centre, then cut a hole for the trunk."

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NATURE'S PALETTE
Anne often draws on nature when decorating. The chartreuse of the spring leaves on her front-yard oak tree inspired the green accents in the living room.



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living room's green accents by adding artificial apples to the tree and mantel garland. The children get their own tree in the playroom, which they decorate with old and new ornaments.

Anne likes "mixing layer upon layer of elements" – antique with modern, silver with gold, high-end with flea market. It's all about experimentation, she says. "The idea is to bring all your favourite pieces together and see what works." In the dining room, she paired inexpensive gold chargers with formal dinner plates and heirloom Rosenthal soup bowls. As she says, "The whole look is elegant and polished without being goopy." That's true of all the holiday trimmings in her home. The key, she says, is to "think natural." For example, paperwhites complement the palette in the master bedroom, where Anne chose a mossy green for the walls. Just as the chartreuse living room accents were inspired by her oak leaves in spring, this colour evokes their deeper shade in summer. "In the grey of winter, the room feels fresh, organic, soft and enveloping all at the same time," she says. "Heaven."

WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160



"You can never go wrong with a cachepot of paperwhites. They **fill the house with fragrance"**

ANNE HEPFER, DESIGNER & OWNER

COSY WINDOW SEAT The vibrant reds of the family den are festive in their own right. A simple artificial wreath, potted poinsettia and two "guardsmen" beside the sofa add to the statement. "I found the giant nutcrackers at Costco," says Anne. "The kids love them."

ON GUARD Colourful nutcracker soldiers line the bright red shelves in the children's playroom.

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BEDSIDE BEAUTY
Paperwhites add a seasonal accent to the night table. "I also love a white amaryllis in a simple cachepot," she says. "Stake it with bamboo and tie with raffia."

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THE SETTING Built in the 1930s, the house sits on more than 100 acres of land. Also on the property are a barn that's a summer studio, and small buildings used for storage. Outdoor decorating is simple: white twinkle lights, lanterns, red ribbon, berries and evergreen boughs.

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winter wonderland

A young family brings some of their city style to their casual country home

By Stephanie Saunders | Photography by David Bagosy

Leaving behind the big-city art scene wasn't difficult for artist Manny Neubacher and fashion stylist Anya Shor. The couple love their renovated 80-year-old farmhouse in Minden, Ont., which blends modern decor with country-chic touches, and showcases their passion for Canadian art. Since the birth of their daughter, Simone, 16 months ago, their home has become even more pleasurable, especially at Christmastime. Says Anya, "The serenity and calm here are such a contrast to the bustle of the city. We feel transported to another time, when the holidays really were about family and appreciating what you had around you." →

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DINING ROOM The farmhouse was originally divided into small rooms and hallways. Homeowners Anya Shor and Manny Neubacher removed walls and opened up the ceiling for an airy, modern feel. Glass tops a hospital change table on wheels for a versatile dining table. "I love to set a pretty table – it makes guests feel welcome," says Anya. Contemporary art like *The Tomahawk Strike* by Scott Waters (left) and *Unfortunately, All Good Things Come to an End* by Paul Butler (right) is balanced by a stained glass window.

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"There's something magical about decorating the tree – the night and endless starry sky with no neighbouring lights" ANYA SHOR, OWNER



LIVING ROOM Reclaimed antiques and modern pieces mix in the living area, which is anchored by an antique medicine cabinet, a tailored armchair and a stain-resistant microfibre sectional. The Moroccan rug adds colour and further delineates the space.

Cut from the couple's own forest, the Christmas tree is dressed with keepsakes and glass ornaments from Putti Fine Furnishings. A tray with clove-spiked oranges, gingerbread men and pinecones is an easy festive "potpourri." →

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“Pure modernism can be cold and boring; too much country is cheesy. **Bringing the two together adds depth and charm”** MANNY NEUBACHER, OWNER





WINTER STUDIO A hospital cart holds Manny’s paints, pencils and brushes. Above hang two works in progress. As an extension of their love of collecting, Manny and Anya launched The Art Stylists, an art-placement service that works with interior designers, private clients and the film and TV industry to find the right piece to suit any occasion.

HOME GALLERY Turn a hallway into an art gallery. “We wanted a white-cube gallery setting, like an empty canvas, to rotate art,” Manny says. “We move works around, discuss them and change things up.” *Drywall Plug* by Martin Ouellette hangs in the foreground; in the background are two untitled works by Les Newman.

traditions: old & new

Blend happy memories and inspired ideas the way owners Anya Shor and Manny Neubacher do.

CREATE A TREE-CUTTING RITUAL
“A week before Christmas, we put on our snowshoes and trek out back for the perfect tree,” says Anya. “After that, we make Swiss fondue, a special tradition from Manny’s family.”

STIMULATE THE SENSES
“The smell of the chocolates hanging on the tree reminds me of my childhood. Every year, I hang chocolates at our place,” says Manny.

GET INSPIRED BY THE ARTS
“I look for whimsical ornaments to create a magical world Simone can imagine coming to life after dark, as in *The Nutcracker*,” says Anya. “My mother took me to see it, plus I’m Russian so there’s a connection to the story.”

INCORPORATE NATURAL TOUCHES
“We create wreaths and other arrangements from items on our property,” says Manny. “Natural decorations have always been a tradition for both of our families.”

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GUEST ROOM Thanks to a white scheme, this small space feels bright and airy. Eye-catching details: a pretty chandelier, a vintage Hudson's Bay Company point blanket, a triptych by Adrian Williams, and stuffed animals playfully tucked into bed. →

fabulous gift idea

Hudson's Bay Company Point Blanket
The indigo lines on the side of a blanket refer to its weight and size, which are measured using a point system. The number of points (from 1 to 6) represents the overall finished size of the blanket, not its value in terms of beaver pelts, as legend has it.

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"I began buying ornaments in anticipation that
one day my children would sit and admire them" ANYA SHOR, OWNER



ROOM TO GROW A vibrant rug introduces pattern and colour to the bright, airy nursery. Anya and Manny repurposed the washstand as a change table. They store toys in their daughter Simone's former bassinet. A Turkish mirror and art by Adrian Williams are visual treats for baby and parents.

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FAMILY OUTING Trekking along an old, winding hunting trail is a pleasurable pastime. Says Anya, "The beautiful powdery snow is covered with tiny little foot and hoof prints from all the animals that share our land. When Simone gets older, the game will be to identify the prints."
WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160

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glamorous topiaries

Carnations and mums are accented with giant "pearl" ornaments for this luxe look.

HOW-TO To make the ball, start with a floral foam sphere; for the trees, use cone shapes. Fill a bucket or sink with at least 5" of water and soak foam for about 20 minutes or until pieces sink. Place foam in vessel – café au lait bowls, cake stands and teacups work well. Cut each carnation stem to about 1½" and insert in foam, beginning at the bottom and working around and up in concentric circles. Pack flowers tightly; fill in any gaps with mums and ornaments.

TIP Place the snowball topiary in a teacup and set on an inverted saucer to give it height.

white *magic*

Turn inexpensive supermarket flowers into pretty decorative accents with these simple styling tricks

By Margot Austin | Photography by Virginia Macdonald

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mantel in minutes

Plants in different heights, shapes and shades of white add up to an attractive mantelscape.

HOW-TO Pop cypress topiaries into white plant pots and top the soil with moss. Re-pot mini-poinsettias into small white pots or large mugs. Place raffia-tied paperwhite narcissus in water-filled bud vases. Arrange on mantel. Add votives, making sure any flame is clear of foliage. →

For a paperwhite tying tip, see
WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 164

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small tree, big impact

A tabletop tree is a cute low-fuss alternative to a full-size one – there's less hassle with the stand and fewer dropped needles. We swapped glitz, including lights, for pearlized balls, felt decorations, flowers and a beaded garland.

HOW-TO Drape a cloth over the table for an elegant finishing touch. Fill plastic flower vials with water; insert a mum or carnation stem (or multiple baby's breath) in each. Attach the vials to the tree branches using floral wire. Arrange the balls, decorations and garland on the tree.

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easy tulip centrepiece

This bouquet takes minutes and looks fresh on a small table.

HOW-TO Gather tulips in your hand, one stem at a time, arranging into a loose dome shape. Secure with a clear elastic band. Cut stems so the flower heads rest above the vessel rim.

TIP Twist boxwood sprigs into napkin rings.

WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160

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LIVING ROOM Using traditional colours at Christmas isn't mandatory – incorporate tones of your existing decor, as home-owner and stylist Lara McGraw has done with the lilacs and greys.

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comfort & JOY

A decor stylist finds that seamless design and cool colours are seasonal favourites in her Scandinavian-styled century home

By Natalie Bahadur | Photography by Donna Griffith



DINING ROOM Lara's appreciation of easy style is nowhere more evident than in her dining room. A bare wreath and a simply set dining table with vases of white tulips, amaryllis and spider mums comprise Lara's no-fuss approach to decorating and entertaining. →

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FRONT HALL Filled with little more than natural light, the sparse foyer is jazzed up with easy decorations, like the handmade felt ball garland and glass balls adorning the staircase. "It's a great way to dress up the foyer instead of the usual bough garland," says Lara.

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CHRISTMAS TREE Sugar plum-colour chairs flanking the lightly dressed tree draw out the hues of pale pink and purple decorations, many of which are handmade from felt. →

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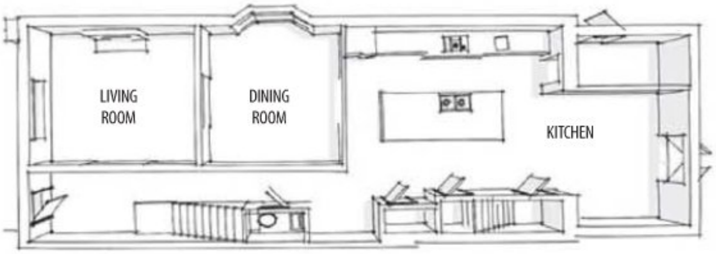
"I'm drawn to softer, more neutral colours – **you don't have to use red and green at Christmas**"

LARA MCGRAW, OWNER





WRAPPING STATION An old desk that was Lara's grandmother's serves practical purposes year-round and is ideal for turning into a gift-wrapping station during the holiday months.



Stylist Lara McGraw and husband Michael Curry moved into their Toronto home over a year ago, and while it may be new to them, the house, built in the late 1890s, is more than a century old and has seen its share of Christmases past.

The old home, perfect for the couple and their three children (Liam, 6, Grace, 4, and Margot, 2), was almost completely renovated and move-in ready except for colourful walls that Lara says she couldn't wait to paint over. "I had a paintbrush in my hand the first night – I was that eager to start making it my own," she says. Trading in red, yellow and robin's egg blue walls for grey and white has given this home the perfect backdrop for a natural, almost snowy, white Christmas.

And with the help of *Style at Home* design editor Ann Marie Favot, Lara has combined timeless style with hints of modern elements – for a home that's a peaceful haven for her family to celebrate the holidays simply and elegantly. Channelling a Scandinavian style, the home's Nordic palette and natural elements make for a pure and pretty space.

ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT ROGERS

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ENTRY White is fantastic in winter because it reflects light and creates a bright space. Lara made the most of this radiator by topping it with a shelf and creating a glowy votive vignette. →

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"For me, things carry the most beauty when they have **a sense of history and tradition"**

LARA MCGRAW, OWNER





holiday traditions

Homeowner Lara McGraw shares her holiday traditions, old and new.

SENTIMENTAL DECORATING
"I still use the ornaments that my brother Ryan and I made as children and love pulling out the box at Christmas. I also buy or make my own kids' ornaments every year."

TREE PLANTING
"We usually cut down a tree that my husband planted years before on his family farm."

PRESENT NIGHT
"Each of us is allowed to open a present on Christmas Eve – but only one!"

FOOD SHOPPING
"We usually go to the St. Lawrence Market in Toronto on Christmas Eve as a family, to do a big shop and have a peameal sandwich. We also have smoked salmon and Caesars for the adults on Christmas morning."

WHAT MAKES CHRISTMAS SPECIAL
"For us, the holidays are all about family and friends. We love having everyone over to celebrate the season and usually end up having a bit of a dance party and a mean game of charades after Christmas dinner."

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GINGERBREAD TREATS
Gingerbread is a Christmas classic, and its delicious aroma wafts throughout the home. Lara displays the treats on a tiered tray, with mini-ornaments placed on the table for a subtle holiday touch.
WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160

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family history

A B.C. couple build a brand-new home around German heirlooms and happy memories

By Trisse Loxley | Photography by Janis Nicolay | Styling by Heather Cameron

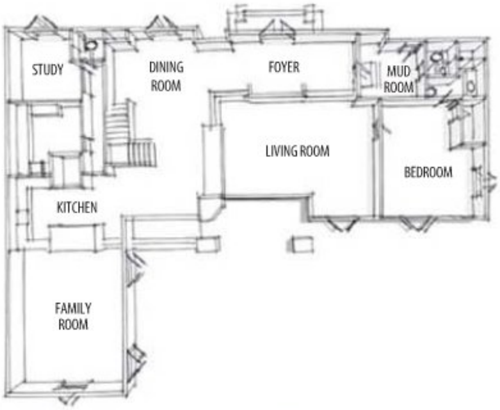
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HOME FIRES Standing taller than 5', the custom see-through fireplace (also open to the kitchen on the other side) takes centre stage in Jutta and Guenther Rapp's living room. Plush velvet armchairs and an heirloom coffee table painted black for punch are placed in front of the concrete mantel.

FAMILY GATHERING In the dining room, a custom-made pine harvest table stands under a contemporary chandelier, with colourful silk drapes as a backdrop. Jutta forgos fancy tablecloths, preferring to leave the table exposed. "That way, in time, you'll be able to see its history." →

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"**I wanted a charming house** where you'd feel welcome and at home" JUTTA RAPP, OWNER









The holidays are a time many of us return to our roots – we pull out our grandmother's silver or a few family recipes. Generally, family traditions are something we revisit only on special occasions, but Jutta and Guenther Rapp have literally built a home around them.

Their new house in Tsawwassen, on the B.C. coast just north of the U.S. border, is filled with family history – more specifically, the history of their lives in Germany before they moved to Canada 12 years ago. When they first arrived, the couple – she a home decor and gift store owner, he an importer – lived just down the road. But when this property became available, Jutta says, "We did everything we could to get it."

"We never thought we would be able to live on the bluff side of the

COOK'S VIEW Windows are strategically placed for watching the sun sink into the ocean while prepping dinner.

HOLIDAY CHEER Mulled wine, called Glühwein, is a must for sipping by the fire. "In Germany, you take it, along with pretzels and bratwurst, when you go for a walk," says Jutta. "It's one of the reasons Germans seem so happy!"

DECORATIVE SCENTS *Pomanda* is a German decoration made of dried oranges covered in cloves and spice. Jutta places them on a platter with cinnamon sticks and walnuts. "The fragrance lasts forever," she says.

SEASONAL GOODIES Holiday treats include jam cookies called *Husarenkrapfen*.

For Jutta's family cookie recipe, see **WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 172**

ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT ROGERS

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SPACE FOR TWO The oversize island offers more than enough room for the avid chef (Guenther) and avid baker (Jutta) to work side by side. "I didn't want a perfect kitchen," Jutta says. "I like separate pieces that look like old cupboards you fit together." Shaker-style cabinetry, in a simple black-and-white theme, is designed to create what she calls "that Old World feeling."

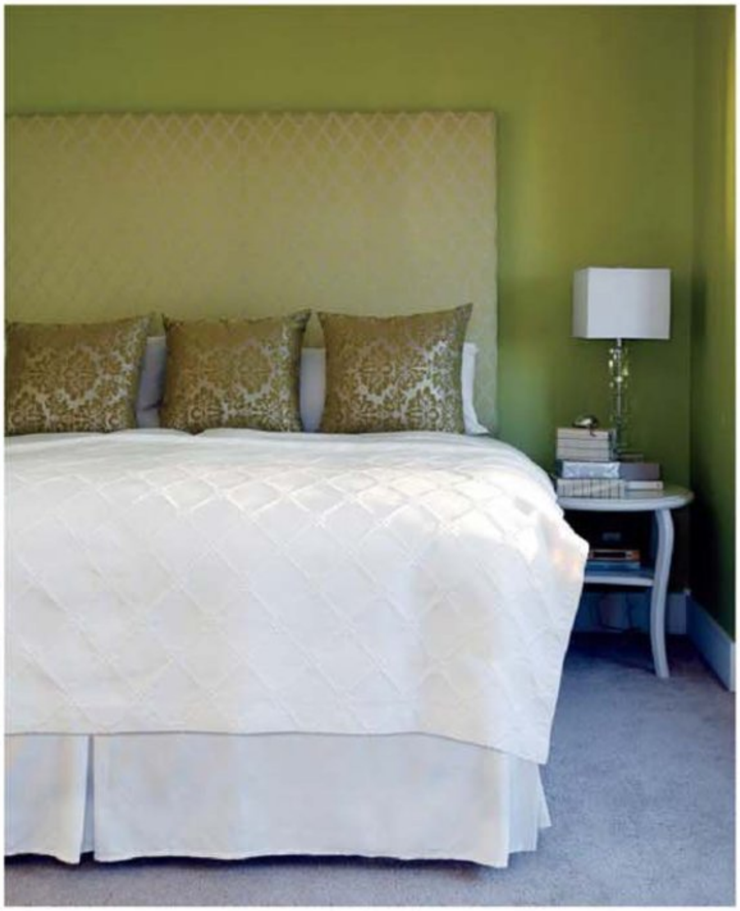
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"I always mix **natural materials with finer things for contrast**" JUTTA RAPP, OWNER

DECK THE ENTRANCE HALL Visitors are greeted by Jutta's Santa collection, an antique till (from a store she owned in Germany) and sketches of the Rapps' previous homes. The wall colour is a custom shade of warm orange that, for Jutta, says welcome.

SOOTHING SURROUNDINGS The palette in the bedroom creates a truly restful mood. Various greens, including Jutta's favourite – Dill Pickle by Benjamin Moore – are set off by touches of white and sumptuous fabrics like silk and velvet.





street," she adds, speaking of the residences perched above the Strait of Georgia. "When we walked into the backyard, we could see the ocean and the ferries," she says. "It was the view we wanted. It didn't matter about the house – we knew we could change it."

Changing the house meant renovating the original ranch structure to create a two-storey home large enough for the couple and their two children. Every inch of the new space was designed to showcase the past. "I have a lot of old things I cherish," Jutta says, referring to cabinets and other furniture passed down from previous generations. "Everything needed its own wall." Even the entry door – a 200-year-old antique – needed to be incorporated into the plan. "We had the front door long before we had the house," she laughs.

Aside from heirlooms, there are traditional touches everywhere, like oiled cherry floor boards and checkerboard marble tiles in the foyer.

"I love old things because they bring warmth to a home," Jutta says. "But you need a bit of modern edge. Otherwise a house can look like an antique store." It's a decor theory she's applied throughout – adding orange silk drapes for a dash of colour, hanging a contemporary chandelier above a pine table and, for the holidays, dressing up a mantel with silver candlesticks and fairy lights.

Even though it was the view that first sold Jutta and Guenther on this property, what they love now is "the cosiness," she says. "It's a big house, but it's happy and friendly." In other words, for these transplanted Canadians, this is home.

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TRADITIONAL WELCOME The antique door is Guenther and Jutta Rapps' pride and joy. Bought many years ago from a door collector near Cologne, Germany, "the girl," as they call it, is made of oak with original hardware, including tiny functional windows and iron grilles updated to spell out Guenther and Jutta's initials. It's framed by simple board and batten and statement-making topiaries.

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SMALL SPACE OF THE MONTH

'60s apartment

the space A typical Toronto apartment gets a luxe holiday look.

who lives here Lynn Spence, popular *CityLine* style expert, makes her workweek pied-à-terre just as festive as her all-decked-out country home.



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By Lucie Grys | Photography by Andreas Trauttmansdorff



cosy & elegant

Style expert Lynn Spence pays attention to every surface: "I can't bear bare windowsills," she says, "so with the help of Irene Makeeff Peters of The House and Garden Co., I dressed them with boughs."

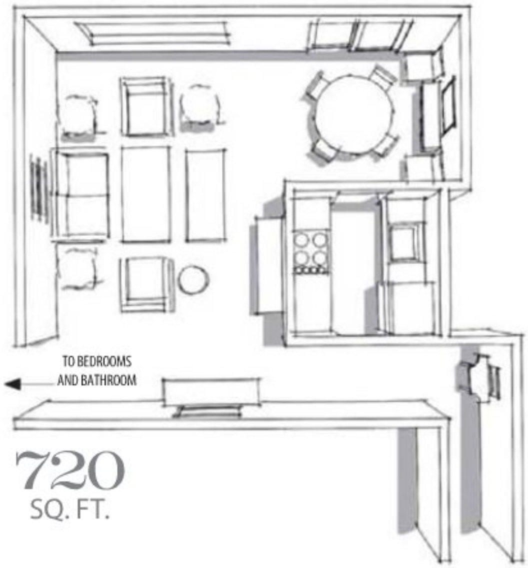


ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT ROGERS



lynn spence's guide to small-space holiday style

Decorate with natural materials. "Apartments and small condos often lack architectural features, so bring in natural elements in abundance," says Lynn. "I use tall birch logs instead of a tree to add height and interest, plus topiaries, pinecones, magnolia leaves and small bouquets of greens."

Complement your existing colour palette. "I don't really care what the hottest colours are for the season," says Lynn. "They just won't look great if they don't match my interior."

Go for impact. "If you're going to decorate, do it lavishly – that shows you've done it with care. Be sure that wherever the eye falls there's something beautiful."

Work with what you have. Instead of buying holiday dishes, "embellish white china with metallic cocktail plates and coordinating napkins – items you can use year-round," says Lynn. Place beeswax candles near crystal or glass. "The shimmering effect creates a glowy feel. It's not extravagant, but it's glamorous." →

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singular hue

"I place bowls of different sizes throughout my apartment, all with one colour theme," Lynn says. "This year it's gold." A big believer in using what she already has, Lynn added oversize magnolia leaves to a bowl of faux golden artichokes that always sits on the living room console table.

mirror dressing

Lynn hangs a wreath in front of most of her mirrors, but here she chose an alternative. "A kissing ball is just so charming," she says. "The ribbon's colour is subdued but its size makes it stand out." Rustic baskets with massive B.C. sugar cones add an organic, relaxed element and lovely scent. →

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The new safer-than-a-candle **FEBREZE** Flameless Luminaire comes with holiday scents.



The Flameless Luminaire has a flickering, candle-like glow and authentic, candle-like scents. But because it doesn't have a flame, it's safer than a candle — an especially reassuring thought in homes with young children or pets.

Placing a shade onto the base activates a soft, flickering light. Want to change the look and fragrance? Simply choose a new shade.



Cranberry Pear

Enjoy the cool, crisp scent of cranberry pear with a festive red shade showing ornaments hanging from evergreen branches.



Vanilla Frost

Fill the room with a light, enticing vanilla aroma with this whimsical snowman shade.



The new Febreze Flameless Luminaire. Bring one home for the holidays, or pop a bow on top and give a little freshness to a friend. Part of the new Febreze Home Collection.



febreze home COLLECTION

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febrezehomecollection.ca

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mini trees

Lynn dressed the entrance console with small boxwood topiaries in metallic-colour pots. They flank a bowl of various-size gold ornaments, a motif repeated throughout the space. "The topiaries will last well into January because they sit in floral foam," says Lynn.

maxi wreath

"I really love the look of generous-size wreaths on mirrors, even though I live in a small space," says Lynn, who entertains buffet-style for holiday gatherings. Set up a table or a tea or bar cart with plates and candles, and have wineglasses within reach.

WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 160

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Advertisement

[oh stanley!]

Make something great.



When it comes to decking the halls for the holidays, even an elf will appreciate Stanley's help! Just a few proper tools will speed the task of neatly and securely fastening seasonal decorations around your home.

For me, it's tradition to hang cedar garland over door frames and window sills. I love the look and aroma. I used to fumble with nails and push pins to hold the greenery in place, but nails left unsightly holes in the wood trim and pins inevitably let go leaving a crumpled pile of evergreen bits blanketing the floor.

Last year, a friend gave me a Stanley electric stapler. To my delight, the staples left only pin-size holes even though they held like a nail. Because it's electric, the trigger offers far less resistance than the old spring-loaded gizmos that test your strength and patience. Armed with my Stanley electric stapler, this winter I'll single-handedly drape all sorts of decorations around my house. Maybe too many, but each to their own.

Want to avoid woodpecker holes in your walls? These are clusters of holes resulting from repeated "hit and miss" shots with a nail or screw when trying to find a wall stud. They're a common side effect when attempting to anchor a shelf or a heavy picture to a hidden wall stud.

Rather than peck at your wall, pick up a Stanley Stud Sensor. Point the sensor at the wall and its flashing lights will show you exactly where the studs are located. No, it won't help you find a date for turkey dinner, but it's a start.



Stanley
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where to find it

To make finding that perfect something easier, here are products and suppliers featured in this issue. Where possible, we've listed toll-free numbers and websites so readers who live outside of city centres still have access to these great products. We've checked the info, but things do change, so verify prices and availability before ordering, and be advised that shipping and handling charges often apply. Non-Canadian sources may also charge exchange rates or additional fees. If an item shown isn't listed, it wasn't possible to track down a source or the product has been discontinued. Due to photography and printing processes, colours shown may differ from actual paint colours. For accuracy, see the paint company colour cards. Happy shopping!

WE LOVE IT!

Page 44

The Adventures of Tartanscot: tartanscot.blogspot.com. **The Bay:** thebay.com. **Canfloyd Trading:** 800-263-3093. **Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics:** 800-268-1300; crownwallpaper.com. **Out of Ireland:** 866-389-0886; outofireland.ca. **SMW Design:** San Francisco, 415-348-9848; smwdesign.com.

HAPPY HOMECOMINGS

Pages 55 to 63

SQUARE APPEAL **Paint:** Benjamin Moore, 800-361-5898; benjaminmoore.ca. **Wreath:** Sweet Violets, Guelph, Ont., 519-767-1815. **Ribbon:** Craine's Coach House Florist, 800-910-2111; coachhouseflorist.com. NEW AGAIN **Paint:** CIL Paints, 800-387-2253; cil.ca. ONE-STOP SHOPPING **Paint:** Benjamin Moore (see above). **Greenery:** President's Choice, 800-296-2332, pc.ca. ECO-FRIENDLY CHEER **Paint:** CIL Paints (see above). LET IT SNOW Behr **paint:** The Home Depot, 800-628-0525; homedepot.ca. PERSONAL FLAIR **Paint:** Para Paints, 800-461-7272; para.com. STAR TREATMENT **Paint:** Para Paints (see above). TWO FOR ONE **Paint:** Benjamin Moore (see above). **Greenery:** Meadowville Garden Centre, 800-604-9954, meadowvillegardencentre.com; Royal City Nursery, Guelph, Ont., 519-824-4998, royalcitynursery.com. THEATRICAL THEME **Paint:** Benjamin Moore (see above). **Greenery:** Grobe's Nursery & Garden Centre, Breslau, Ont., 519-648-2247; grobenursery.com. **Ribbon:** Craine's Coach House Florist (see above).

EAT-IN KITCHEN

Pages 64 to 68

Design: *Pure Design,* hgtv.ca/puredesign. **Construction, installation:** Peg Corp., Toronto, 416-782-8855; pegreno.com. **Electrical:** Lion Electric, Mississauga, Ont., 647-285-7166. **Paint:** White Down CC-50 (walls, trim), Ivory White CC-130 (ceiling), Benjamin Moore, 800-361-5898; benjaminmoore.ca. FRESH & WELCOMING Lidingo **cabinetry:** IKEA, 866-866-4532; ikea.ca. **Island:** base, Lidingo cabinetry, IKEA (see above); lacquer, Barnboard S-1600 (colour matched to Benjamin Moore's Barnboard CC-572), Pro Glo Paints, 866-625-2838, torontopaintstore.com, Benjamin Moore (see above); refinishing, Benjamen Furniture Refinishing, Toronto, 416-745-2559; countertop, butcher block, IKEA (see above). Framtid **range,** Luftig **hood,** Hanstone quartz **countertop,** Boholmen **sink and faucet,** Kardemumma **plant pots,** Phalaenopsis **orchid,** PS Stock **vase,** Lenda **dishtowel:** IKEA (see above). Ingolf **stools:** IKEA (see above); lacquer, Black S-1604 (colour matched to Benjamin Moore's Black 2132-10), Pro Glo Paints (see above), Benjamin Moore (see above). Bamboo **flooring,** backsplash **tiles:** Carpet One Floor & Home, 800-227-7381; carpetone.com. Empire Suite **hardware:** Lee Valley Tools, 800-267-8767; leevalley.com. **Toaster, espresso machine, kettle:** Breville, 866-273-8455; breville.ca. BUTCHER BLOCK Nutid **refrigerator,** Celeber **canisters,** PS Spraka **pepper mill,** Rora **mortar and pestle,** Retratt **knife block,** Slitbar **knives,** Kraftig **cutting board,** 365+ white **plates:** IKEA (see above). COMFY BANQUETTE **Armchairs:** lacquer, Black S-1604 (colour matched to Benjamin Moore's Black 2132-10), Pro Glo Paints (see above), Benjamin Moore (see above); upholstery and painting, JVM Interiors, Markham, Ont., 905-475-7008; fabric, Paolo Mocha (seat, inner back), through designers, Robert Allen, 800-363-3020, robertallendesign.com; Paddock Shawl Onyx fabric (outside back), Fabricland, 888-780-0333, fabricland.ca. **Banquette:** Robert Allen Get Involved fabric in Sand Dollar, Paolo Mocha seat piping, through designers, Robert Allen (see above). **Cushions:** Ritva (black and white solids), IKEA (see above); fabric, Robert Allen Get Involved (linen solid), Cats Cradle (geometric print), Islandia (orange solid), Beacon Hill Farm Fresh (red solid), through designers, Robert Allen (see above); Paddock Shawl Onyx fabric (black pattern), Fabricland (see above); sewing, Luxe, Toronto, 416-463-0215. Millbrook Lantern **pendants:** Robert Abbey Fine Lighting, Hickory, N.C., 828-322-3480; robertabbey.corporatepo.com. Silhouette Toujours **window shadings:** Hunter Douglas Canada, 800-265-8000; hunterdouglas.ca. **Artwork:** (clockwise from left) *Home* by Drew Khan, *Ireland* by David Ladmore, *Last Light* by Todd Tremeer; by Gordana Olujic Dosic (on right); *Skyline* by Greg Nordoff (beside pantry); Art Interiors, Toronto, 416-488-3157; artinteriors.ca. DESK AREA *Horizon* **bottle:** Arron Lowe, Toronto, 416-434-9166; arronlowe. com. Bosse **stool:** IKEA (see above); lacquer, Raspberry Truffle S-1635 (colour matched to Benjamin Moore's Raspberry Truffle 2080-10), Pro Glo Paints (see above), Benjamin Moore (see above). Salong **red vases** (in cupboard), Fargrik **black plates,** Godis Mix **glasses:** IKEA (see above). **Artwork:** (at left, clockwise from top) *Q Anne 2* and *Annabelle* by Hilda Oomen, *Sunrise Lovers 1* by Arleigh Wood, *La Roue* by Julianna Joos; (at right, top to bottom), *The Way You Look at Me 1* by Arleigh Wood, *Mama Needs a New Pair of Shoes* by Lori Doody; Art Interiors (see above).

DECORATOR'S NOTEBOOK

Pages 70 to 74

Driftwood **table,** antler **chandelier, bench:** Constantine, 866-929-1177; constantineinteriors.com. Exterior **door:** The Door Store, Toronto, 416-863-1590; thedoorstore.ca. →

BRET BUSSEY



pattern primer

FROM PAGE 44

TARTAN VS. PLAID "There's always been some confusion when classifying a tartan versus a plaid," says Scot Meacham Wood, designer and blogger of The Adventures of Tartanscot. "Both patterns are comprised of coloured stripes in the warp and weft that meet at right angles across the face of the textile. In a tartan, the warp and weft stripes should be symmetrical – creating a regimented grid of colour and pattern (there are exceptions, but this covers about 95% of modern tartans.) In a plaid, the warp and weft are not symmetrical."

TARTANSCOT.BLOGSPOT.COM.

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Umbrella stand: Angus & Company, Toronto, 416-537-4104; angusandcompany.com. **Coral print,** quartz **votive:** L'Atelier, Toronto, 416-966-0200. **Floor mat,** polished-nickel **bell:** Elte, 888-276-3583; elte.com. Formos **vase,** spin **bowl:** 18Karat Home Store, 888-849-8811; eighteenkarat.com. Lacquered **boxes:** Samaco Trading, 800-263-3093.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Pages 80 to 84

Floral arrangements: Holton Flowers, Port Hope, Ont., 905-885-7439; holtonflowers.com. STAIRCASE SIMPLICITY **Paint:** Concord Ivory HC-12 (walls), Ultra White CC-10 (trim), Benjamin Moore, 800-361-5898; benjaminmoore.ca. **Table:** Antiques on Queen, Port Hope, Ont., 905-885-9858. **Runner:** Acanthus Interiors, Port Hope, Ont., 905-885-8648. ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIC **Paint:** Cloud White CC-40 (trim), Benjamin Moore (see above). SEASONAL SCENT **Paint:** Picture Gallery Red 32 (walls), Farrow & Ball, 877-363-1040, farrow-ball.com; Ultra White CC-10 (trim), Benjamin Moore (see above). **Chairs:** Hide House, 877-453-2843, hidehouse.ca; upholstery, Stitch in Tyme Upholstery, Sutton, Ont., 905-478-2016. **Rug:** Scollard Carpet and Interiors, Toronto, 416-782-0776; scollard.com. **Drapery:** Acanthus Interiors (see above). FRESH FORMAL **Dinnerware:** President's Choice Home Collection, pc.ca. Waterford **glasses:** William Ashley, 800-268-1122; williamashley.com. COSY CORNER **Settee:** HorseFeathersHome, Toronto, 416-486-4555; horsefeathershome.com.



historic home

FROM PAGE 84

In his living room (far left), Charles Wickett looks at *New Life in Old Houses* by Mary Jukes (Longmans, 1966). The book features two Port Hope, Ont., properties: this one (Mrs. D.G. Scott, the previous owner, is seen through the same doorway) and, coincidentally, the house Charles grew up in.

HIGH/LOW

Pages 86 to 87

Art Shoppe: Toronto, 416-487-3211; theartshoppe.com. **Canfloyd Trading:** 800-263-3093. **ChairTableLamp:** Toronto, 416-934-1021; chairtablelamp.blogspot.com. **Crate and Barrel:** 888-657-4108; crateandbarrel.ca. **Designer Fabrics:** Toronto, 416-531-2810; designerfabrics.ca. **Elte:** 888-276-3583; elte.com. **Higher Ground Homes and Gardens:** 866-250-9232; hghg.ca. **Home Outfitters:** 800-521-2364; homeoutfitters.com. **HomeSense:** 866-466-3707; homesense.ca. **IKEA:** 866-866-4532; ikea.ca. **Jonathan Adler:** 877-287-1910; jonathanadler.com. **Pottery Barn:** potterybarn.ca. **Ralph Lauren Paint:** 800-379-7656; rlhome.polo.com. **RedLetter:** Toronto, 647-340-7294; redletterstore.ca. **Teatro Verde:** 888-483-2876; teatroverde.com. **Union Lighting and Furnishings:** Toronto, 416-652-2200; unionlf.com. **Visitor Parking:** Toronto, 416-350-7275; visitorparking.ca. **William Ashley:** 800-268-1122; williamashley.com.

FAB FINDS FROM $1 TO $50

Pages 89 to 94

Abbott: 800-263-2955; abbottcollection.com. **The Bay:** thebay.com. **Crate and Barrel:** 888-657-4108;

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DONNA GRIFFITH (LEFT)



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pretty paperwhites

FROM PAGE 137

Paperwhite narcissus look even lovelier when displayed in bunches.

HOW-TO Snip potted blooming paperwhite narcissus stems close to the base. Working with small bunches, wrap and tie the stems in two places with raffia.

crateandbarrel.ca. **Design Home Gift & Paper:** 800-663-9950; designhome.ca. **Dollarama:** across Canada. **eBay:** ebay.ca. **Essence du Papier:** 800-561-2358; pierrebelvedere.com. **Furochic:** furochic.com. **Holt Renfrew:** holtrenfrew.com. **IKEA:** 866-866-4532; ikea.ca. **Koo & Poppet:** kooandpoppet.com. **Samaco Trading:** 800-263-3093. **Tiffany & Co.:** 800-265-1251; tiffany.ca. **Timex Group Canada:** 800-263-0981; timex.ca. **West Elm:** Toronto, 416-537-0110; westelm.com.

ALL DRESSED UP

Pages 96 to 100

EYE CANDY **Ottoman:** Putti Fine Furnishings, 800-649-3120; putti.ca. **Jute bags,** recycled **damask tissue paper:** Hallmark Canada, hallmark.ca. **Wrap: Chartreuse Dots, Strawberry and Chartreuse solid, Nightshade and Butterflies,** Waste Not Paper, 800-867-2737, wastenotpaper.com; Pierre Belvédère **flower** 759550, Essence du Papier, 800-561-2358, pierrebelvedere.com. **Ribbon: Fuchsia velvet** 2600K, Mokuba, Toronto, 416-504-5358; **pink satin** M10138, **pink ruffle-edged** 8024, Masterstroke Canada, 866-249-7677, masterstrokecanada.com; Martha Stewart **piped in Camelia Pink,** Michaels Stores, 800-642-4235, michaels.com. Holiday Joy Eco **gold bow, white raffia:** Zellers, zellers.com. →

VIRGINIA MACDONALD



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gift thrift

FROM PAGE 94









An irresistible deal: 12 chic napkins for the same price you'd pay for a single linen one. SET OF 12 COTTON COCKTAIL NAPKINS $12.99, HOMESENSE, 866-466-3707; HOMESENSE.CA.

You haven't tasted after-dinner mints till you've tried these goodies made with English peppermint. SUMMERDOWN PURE MINT CHOCOLATE PEPPERMINT CREAMS $15.99, DOVETALE COLLECTIONS, DOVETALECOLLECTIONS.COM.

Just add candies, flowers or a silvery succulent to double the pleasure of this pretty vase. $3.99, HOMESENSE, 866-466-3707; HOMESENSE.CA.

Nature meets glamour in leafy golden napkin rings. $5 EACH ($16 PER SET OF FOUR), ABBOTT, 800-263-2955; ABBOTTCOLLECTION.COM.



GO GRAPHIC **Chair:** ChairTableLamp, Toronto, 416-934-1021; chairtablelamp.blogspot.com. **Wrap: Life Is Beautiful,** Design Home Gift & Paper, 800-663-9950; **Peacock, Fruit,** Ecojot, 800-836-6669, ecojot.com. **Raffia ribbon** in Seafoam: Pistachio, epistachio.com. BEAUTIFUL BOXES **Pink boxes** with silver ribbon: Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com. **Blue box,** blue **jewelry bag:** Tiffany & Co., 800-265-1251; tiffany.ca. Celebration large **bow:** American Crafts, americancrafts.com. LOVELY LEFTOVERS **Wrap:** Cole & Son **Victorian Star wallpaper,** through designers, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom, 800-535-3258, leejofa.com; **Pool solid,** Waste Not Paper (see above). Pink **ruffle-edge ribbon** 22905: Masterstroke Canada (see above). BAGGED GOODS **Birdcage:** Abbott, 800-263-2955; abbottcollection.com. Pierre Belvédère Amy Butler Temple Garden **bag** and Wood **pillow box** with bow: Essence du Papier (see above). Fuchsia **velvet ribbon** 2600K: Mokuba (see above). **Wrap:** Pierre Belvédère Amy Butler **Parrot Tulip,** Essence du Papier (see above); **Pool solid,** Waste Not Paper (see above). TOPPED WITH TEXTILES Silvergate **wallpaper** (on wall): Farrow & Ball, 877-363-1040; farrow-ball.com. **Tea cart:** ChairTableLamp (see above). Crystal Lake **fabric** (top gift): through designers, Robert Allen, 800-363-3020; robertallendesign.com. **Wrap: Red solid, White Dots on Red,** Waste Not Paper (see above); Christmas Street **Snowflake,** The Bay, thebay.com. Holiday Joy Eco **white ribbon:** Zellers (see above). THE GIFT IS THE WRAP Faux croc nesting **storage boxes:** President's Choice Home Collection, pc.ca. Martha Stewart **moiré ribbon** in Cloud: Michaels Stores (see above). SIMPLY SWEET Pierre Belvédère Woodland Village **wrap:** Essence du Papier (see above). **Ribbon:** Holiday Joy Eco **white,** Zellers (see above);

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL ALBERSTAT

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stocking stuffer

FROM PAGE 106

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Recycled **raffia in Seafoam,** Pistachio (see above). THE LAST SCRAP **Garden bench:** ChairTableLamp (see above). Compendium **card:** Design Home Gift & Paper (see above). **Wrap: White Dots on Red,** Waste Not Paper (see above); **Red-and-white pattern,** Pistachio (see above). **Bow** with red dots: American Crafts (see above).

TABLE STYLE

Page 114

Abbott: 800-263-2955; abbottcollection.com. **Crate and Barrel:** 888-657-4108; crateandbarrel.ca. **The Finnish Place:** 877-346-7467; finnishplace.com. **Waterford Wedgwood Royal Doulton:** 800-268-4040; waterfordwedgwood.ca. **William Ashley:** 800-268-1122; williamashley.com.

TAILORED GLAMOUR

Pages 120 to 127

Design: Anne Hepfer Designs, Toronto, 416-800-2485; annehepfer.com. PLEASING PAIRINGS **Paint:** Mouse's Back 40, Farrow & Ball, 877-363-1040; farrow-ball.com. **Footstools, consoles:** Anne Hepfer Designs (see above). **Venetian mirrors:** through designers, 1st Dibs, 1stdibs.com. **Hat boxes:** Indigo and Chapters, chapters.indigo.ca. INVITING TABLE **Paint:** Skylight 205, Farrow & Ball (see above). **Chair fabric:** through designers, Bennison, bennisonfabrics.com. **Drapery fabric, chandelier:** through designers, Primavera, Toronto, 416-921-3334; primavera.ca. **Rug:** Y & Co., Montreal, 514-287-8998; Toronto, 416-968-7700; ycocarpet.com. **Horn:** The Source Collection, 860-379-2772; sourcecollection.com. NEW-STYLE EVERGREEN **Paint:** Pointing 2003, Farrow & Ball (see above). **Coffee table, loveseats:** Anne Hepfer Designs (see above). **Mirror:** Mecox Gardens, Southampton, N.Y., 631-287-5015; mecoxgardens.com. **Rug, drapery and** ikat **cushion fabric:** Y & Co. (see above). SUBLIME CENTREPIECE **Flatware:** Tiffany & Co., 800-843-3269; tiffany.ca. **China:** Devine, New Jersey, N.Y., 732-751-0500; devinecorp.net. **Stemware:** Quality Crystals Co., Richmond Hill, Ont., 905-764-0777; moser-glass.com. NATURE'S PALETTE **Screen, side tables:** Anne Hepfer Designs (see above). **Sofa:** Anne Hepfer Designs (see above); fabric, Savel Inc., New York, 212-473-2669; savelinc.com. **Table lamps:** through designers, Primavera (see above). **Slipper chairs:** Anne Hepfer Designs (see above); fabric, through designers, Brunschwig & Fils, Toronto, 416-968-0699, brunschwig.com. COSY WINDOW SEAT **Coffee table:** Anne Hepfer Designs (see above). **Roman shade fabric:** John Rosselli, New York, 212-593-2060. **Cushion fabrics:** through designers, Brunschwig & Fils (see above). **Rug:** Y & Co. (see above). BEDSIDE BEAUTY **Paint:** Saxon Green 80, Farrow & Ball (see above). **Headboard:** Anne Hepfer Designs (see above); fabric, Fortuny, New York, 212-753-7153, fortuny.com. **Canopy:** Anne Hepfer Designs (see above). **Pillow fabric:** Fortuny (see above). **Throw:** John Robshaw Textiles, New York, 212-594-6006; johnrobshaw.com. **Rug:** Y & Co. (see above).

WINTER WONDERLAND

Pages 128 to 135

The Art Stylists: Toronto, 416-546-3683; artstylists.com. DINING ROOM **Napkin rings, napkins, glassware, deer, festive crackers:** Putti Fine Furnishings, 800-649-3120; putti.ca. **Window:** The Door Store, Toronto, 416-863-1590; thedoorstore.ca. **Chairs:** IKEA, 866-866-4532; ikea.ca. **Artwork:** *The Tomahawk Strike* by Scott Waters (left), Gallery Neubacher, galleryneubacher.com; *Unfortunately, All Good Things Come to an End* by Paul Butler (right), The Other Gallery, Toronto, 647-864-1945, othergallery.com. LIVING ROOM **Ornaments:** Putti Fine Furnishings (see above). WINTER STUDIO **Artwork:** by Manny Neubacher, Gallery Neubacher (see above). HOME GALLERY **Artwork:** *Drywall Plug* by Martin Ouellette (left), by Les Newman (right, top and bottom), Gallery Neubacher (see above). GUEST ROOM **Blanket:** The Bay, thebay.com. **Artwork:** by Adrian Williams, Gallery Neubacher (see above). ROOM TO GROW **Artwork:** by Adrian Williams (above change table), Gallery Neubacher (see above).

WHITE MAGIC

Pages 136 to 139

Paint: Cloud White CC-40 (walls), Benjamin Moore, 800-361-5898; benjaminmoore.ca. GLAMOROUS TOPIARIES Edme **teacups and saucer:** Waterford Wedgwood Royal Doulton, 800-268-4040; waterfordwedgwood.ca. MANTEL IN MINUTES **Poinsettias,** paperwhite **narcissus, mugs:** President's Choice Home Collection, pc.ca. Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams **chair:** Elte, 888-276-3583; elte.com. Felicia **cushion cover,** Kardemumma **plant pots** (with cypress),



chic carryall

FROM PAGE 104

LUXE LAPTOP BAG "Stain-resistant fabric and a fabulous shape – what more could you want?" NATALIE BAHADUR, SENIOR WEB EDITOR
SIGNATURE COMPUTER BACKPACK IN KHAKI $265 US, MOONSUS, MOONSUS.COM.

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Tajt **bud vases,** Galej **tea light holders:** IKEA, 866-866-4532; ikea.ca. **Chandelier:** The Home Depot, 800-628-0525; homedepot.ca. **Mirror:** ChairTableLamp, Toronto, 416-934-1021; chairtablelamp.blogspot.com. SMALL TREE, BIG IMPACT **Tree, flowers:** Hofland, 800-387-6760; hofland.com. Én Gry & Sif **felt decorations:** Normik Imports, 888-554-3330; engryogsif.dk. EASY TULIP CENTREPIECE Farmhouse **table,** Lucie White **flatware:** Stacaro Home Interiors, Montreal, 514-287-9800; Ottawa, 613-688-1888; Toronto, 416-367-5959; stacaro.com. Henriksdal **chairs,** Rättvik **wineglasses:** IKEA (see above). Edme **plates:** Waterford Wedgwood Royal Doulton (see above). Bastide **placemats and napkins:** Libeco Home, libecohomestores.com.

COMFORT & JOY

Pages 140 to 147

LIVING ROOM **Chair:** Whittington Furniture, Mississauga, Ont., 905-820-9448; whittingtonfurniture.com. **Wreath, pinecones:** Sheridan Nurseries, 888-676-2020; sheridannurseries.com. **Ribbon:** Mokuba, Toronto, 416-504-5358. DINING ROOM Mariposa 69/8133 **wallpaper:** through designers, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom, 800-535-3258; leejofa.com. **Light fixture:** Klaus by Nienkämper, Toronto, 416-362-3434; klausn.com. **Wreath:** Sheridan Nurseries (see above). FRONT HALL **Wreath:** Sheridan Nurseries (see above). **Rug:** Chilewich, chilewich.com. CHRISTMAS TREE **Ornaments:** Midwest-CBK, 866-445-9993; colonialcandle.com. ENTRY Én Gry & Sif **votive holders:** Normik Imports, 888-554-3330; engryogsif.dk. **Ornaments:** Midwest-CBK (see above). GINGERBREAD TREATS **Cookies:** All the Best Fine Foods, Toronto, 416-928-3330; allthebestfinefoods.com.

FAMILY HISTORY

Pages 148 to 153

Architect: KC Mooney Architect, Vancouver, 604-736-2927. HOME FIRES **Paint:** Bleeker Beige HC-80 (walls), Benjamin Moore, 800-361-5898; benjaminmoore.ca. **Chairs:** Restoration Hardware, 800-762-1005; restorationhardware.com. **Drapery, mirror, candles, candleholders, reindeer, tray, ornaments:** Ambiente Gifts, Decor & Design, Tsawwassen, B.C., 604-948-9315; South Surrey, B.C., 604-541-9315; ambiente.ca. FAMILY GATHERING **Paint:** Bleeker Beige HC-80 (walls), Benjamin Moore (see above). **Flooring:** Wide Plank Hardwood, 877-795-2236; wideplankhardwood.com. **Table, chairs, drapery, chandelier, hurricane lamps, candleholders:** Ambiente Gifts, Decor & Design (see above). COOK'S VIEW **Range, range hood:** Trail Appliances, 877-452-5264; trailappliances.com. HOLIDAY CHEER **Mugs:** Ambiente Gifts, Decor & Design (see above). DECORATIVE SCENTS **Candleholders, platter, vase:** Ambiente Gifts, Decor & Design (see above). SPACE FOR TWO Granite **countertops:** Atlas Stone Products, Burnaby, B.C., 604-421-4229; atlasstone.ca. **Fridge:** Trail Appliances (see above). **Pendant lights:** Restoration Hardware (see above). DECK THE ENTRANCE HALL **Floor tiles:** Olympia Tile & Stone, 800-268-1613; olympiatile.com. **Console, chair, candleholders, trough:** Ambiente Gifts, Decor & Design (see above). SOOTHING SURROUNDINGS **Paint:** Dill Pickle 2147-40 (walls), Benjamin Moore (see above). TRADITIONAL WELCOME **Door:** Mairose Schlosser, Rosrath, Germany, 011-492-205-2437; tueren-antik.com. **Lighting:** The Lighting Warehouse, Richmond, B.C., 604-270-3339. **Urns:** Old Farm Garden Stone, Duncan, B.C., 250-748-4977. **Lanterns:** Ambiente Gifts, Decor & Design (see above).

'60S APARTMENT

Pages 154 to 158

Design: Lynn Spence, lynn.spence@sympatico.ca. **Floral arrangements, greenery, birch logs:** The House and Garden Co., Toronto, 416-690-6987; thehouseandgardenco.com. **Paint:** Natural Linen CC-90 (walls), Benjamin Moore, 800-361-5898; benjaminmoore.ca. COSY & ELEGANT **Drapery:** IKEA, 866-866-4532; ikea.ca. **Blinds:** Levolor, 800-850-4555 (Eastern, Central and Western Canada); 800-363-8870 (Que.); levolor.ca. **Rug:** Carpet One Floor & Home, 800-227-7381; carpetone.ca. White **lamp, drum table:** HomeSense, 866-466-3707; homesense.ca. GlucksteinHome **bench:** The Bay, thebay.com. **Throw:** Linen Way, Woodbridge, Ont., 905-653-3006; linenway.com. **Armchairs:** ChairTableLamp, Toronto, 416-934-1021; chairtablelamp.blogspot.com. **Throw pillows:** HomeSense



add some fab

Kelly Wearstler's top tips FROM PAGE 78

1 TRY A NEW COLOUR COMBO "I love pairing unexpected colours – pistachio and golden yellow, soft grey with vibrant purple, or aqua and magenta – and playing with the finishes. Consider a glossy paint or bold colour for your walls. Currently, I love rich aubergine lacquer; it provides a strong sense of depth."

2 PLAY WITH SCALE "Invest in one impactful piece to make a strong statement in a small space. It's an unexpected detail that catches the eye. Whether it's with scale, colour or texture, always do something that's just a little unusual."

3 MIX & MATCH "Buy one-of-a-kind vintage finds. Don't be afraid to mix styles and periods of furniture; the most diverse and entertaining dialogues are the most timeless."

4 CREATE DRAMA "For maximum impact, tent the ceiling and walls of a room with fabric. It's a great way to add a dose of colour and pattern. Or for a more inexpensive treatment that's still graphic, you can paint stripes diagonally on the ceiling."

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Vanessa Hartley

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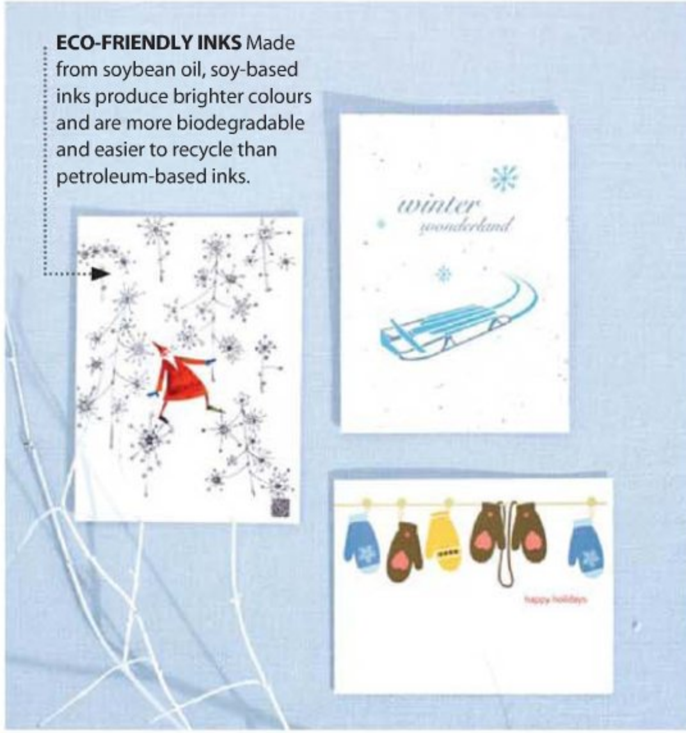
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holiday hello FROM PAGE 180

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: SEASON'S GREETINGS SANTA SOY-BASED INKS $3.95 US, JACK CARDS, JACKCARDS.COM. WINTER WONDERLAND PLANTABLE WILDFLOWER-SEED PAPER $4.95 ($24.95 PER BOX OF EIGHT; MIX OF FOUR DESIGNS), BOTANICAL PAPERWORKS, 877-956-7393; BOTANICALPAPERWORKS.COM. HAPPY HOLIDAYS MITTENS RECYCLED PAPER $4.50 ($18 PER BOX OF EIGHT), DESIGNS BY VAL, DESIGNSBYVAL.COM.

(see above). **Prints:** My Back Shed, 888-647-0588; mybackshed.com. SINGULAR HUE **Faux artichokes:** ChairTableLamp (see above). **Lamp, paperweight, table:** HomeSense (see above). **Vase:** The Bay (see above). MIRROR DRESSING **Ribbon, candlesticks, baskets, pinecones:** The House and Garden Co. (see above). MINI TREES **Containers:** The House and Garden Co. (see above). **Mirror:** HomeSense (see above). White **bowl, console table:** ChairTableLamp (see above). MAXI WREATH **Mirror:** ChairTableLamp (see above). **Plates, candlesticks, votives, sconces:** The House and Garden Co. (see above). Clear **glass vases:** HomeSense (see above). **Light fixture:** Zone, 877-845-3532; zonemaison.com. **Sidechairs:** Walmart, walmart.ca; fabric, Designer Fabrics, Toronto, 416-531-2810, designerfabrics.ca.

WINDOW SHOPPING

Page 180

Clockwise from left: **T'is the Season** recycled paper $13 per box of 10, Indigo and Chapters, chapters.indigo.ca; Pistachio, Toronto, 416-646-8974, epistachio.com. **Happy Holidays wreath** recycled paper $3.50 US each ($13.50 US per box of eight), Smudge Ink, Boston, 617-242-8228; smudgeink.com. **Merry Christmas presents** recycled paper $4.50 each, Yellow Bird Paper Greetings, yellowbirdgreetings.com. **Happy Holidays damask** soy-based inks by Wooster & Prince $15.95 per box of 10, Paper E. Clips, 800-660-7068; papereclips.com. **A Wonderful Holiday Season** recycled paper $5 each ($16 per box of eight), Kate & Birdie, 866-320-5390; kateandbirdie.com. **Smooch!** sustainable birch wood by Night Owl Paper Goods $7.95 each, The Paper Place, Toronto, 416-703-0089, thepaperplace.ca; $24 US per box of six, Night Owl Paper Goods, Homewood, Ala., 205-868-1619, nightowlpapergoods.com. **Warmth & Good Cheer** soy-based inks by Elum Designs $9 per box of six, Paper E. Clips (see above). **December 25** recycled paper $3.50 each ($15 per box of eight), Cartolina, Nelson, B.C., 250-825-4005; cartolina.com. →

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german gems

FROM PAGE 150



In the Rapp home, special holiday treats include *Husarenkrapfen*, jam cookies made from an old family recipe. "In Canada, cookies are something you have all year round," says Jutta Rapp, "but in Germany, we only bake them at Christmas."

HUSARENKRAPFEN

"Krapfen are round fritters of risen pastry filled with jam or cream, sprinkled with icing sugar," says Jutta, who shares her family recipe for traditional Christmas cookies. "The term comes from the old German krafo, *meaning 'fritter.' In this version, the pastry is not risen and the jam is mixed with raspberry liqueur, a spirit undoubtedly more suited to the strong palates of the legendary Hussar warriors."*

2 cups cake-and-pastry flour
2 cups granulated sugar
¾ cup + 2 tbsp butter
2 egg yolks
Pinch salt
½ egg yolk, beaten

Filling
⅓ cup apricot jam
⅓ cup raspberry jam
1 tsp lemon juice
1 tsp raspberry liqueur

On work surface or large cutting board, combine flour, sugar, butter and egg yolks. Add salt and knead with hands bathed in cold water until a ball forms. Cover ball in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 40 minutes.

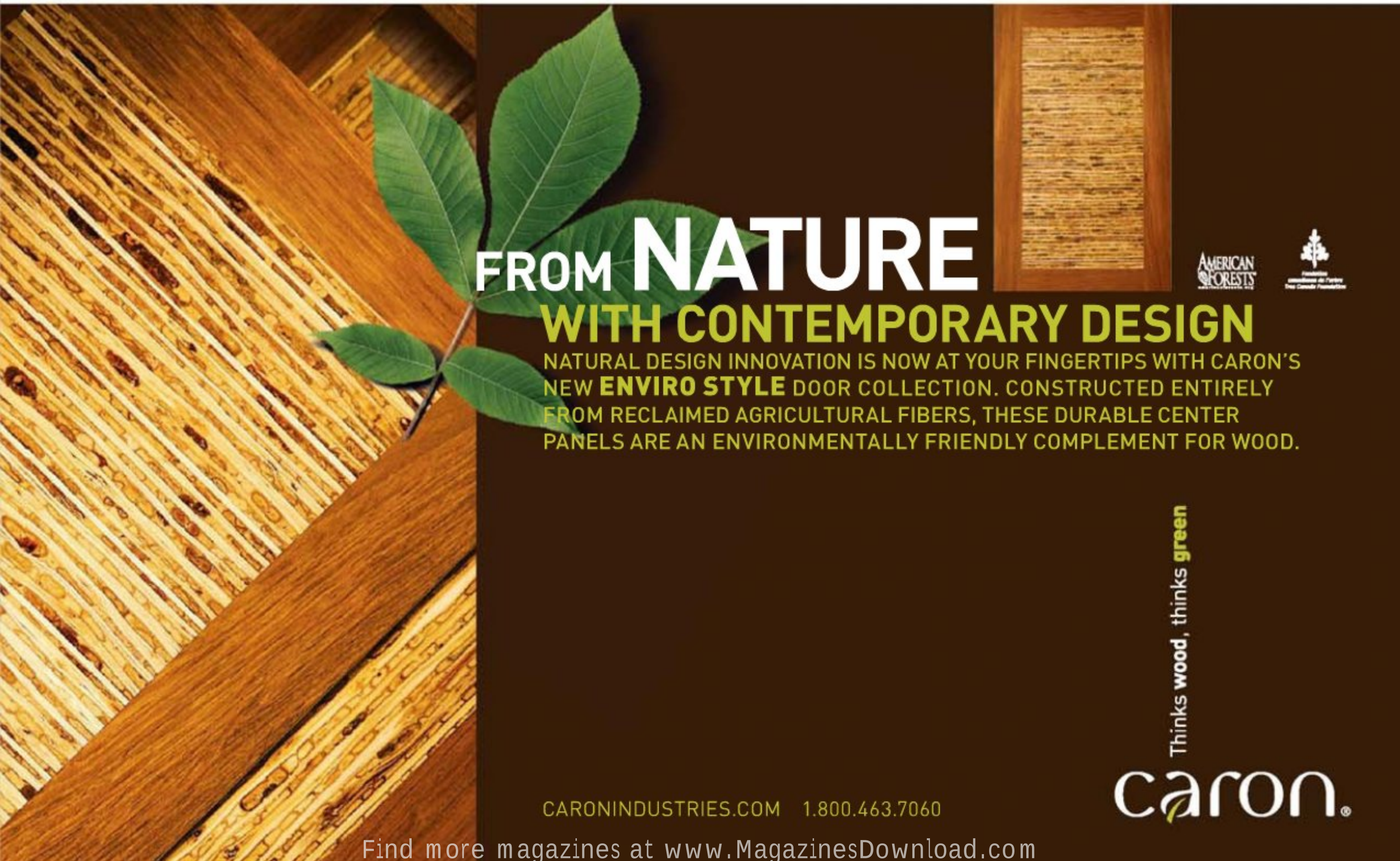
Unwrap pastry and roll pieces into small balls about the size of a walnut. With thumb make large groove in centre of each. Place on greased baking sheet and spread entire surface of each cookie with beaten egg yolk.

Bake in 400°F oven for about 15 minutes or until puffed and golden. Let cool completely.

In separate small saucepans, heat apricot and raspberry jams over low heat. Stir lemon juice into apricot jam. Stir liqueur into raspberry jam. Spoon apricot jam into half of the cooled cookies and raspberry jam into the other half. Let set.

Makes about 2 dozen cookies

JANIS NICOLAY



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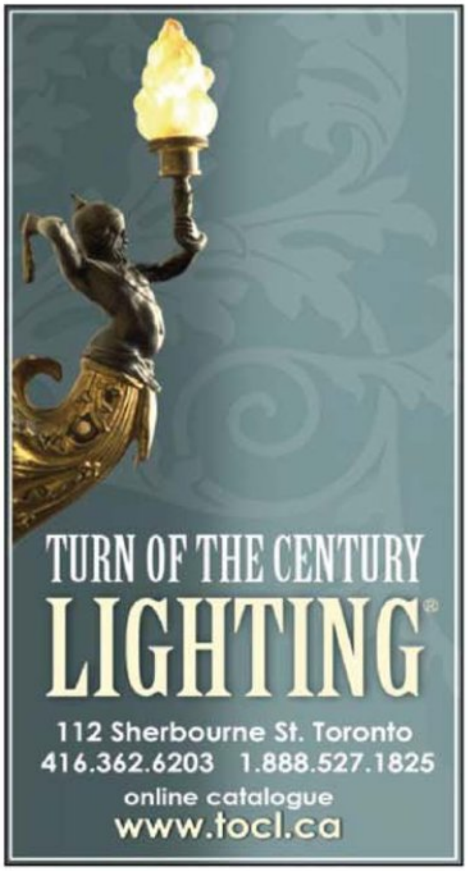


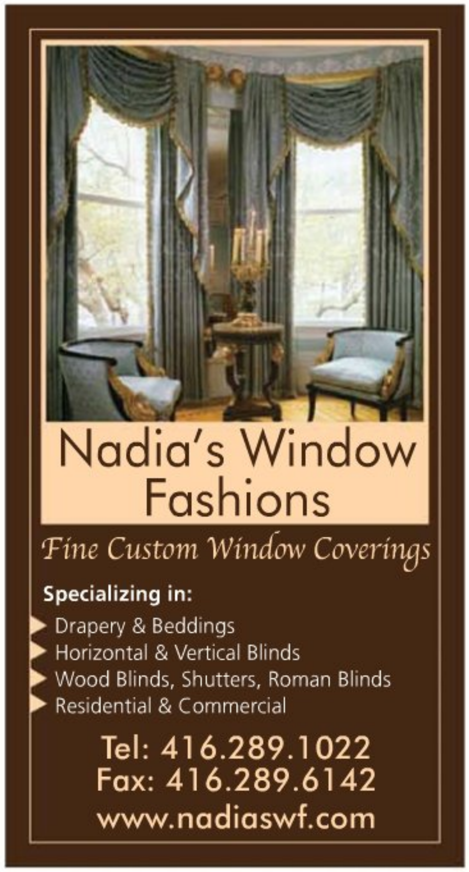






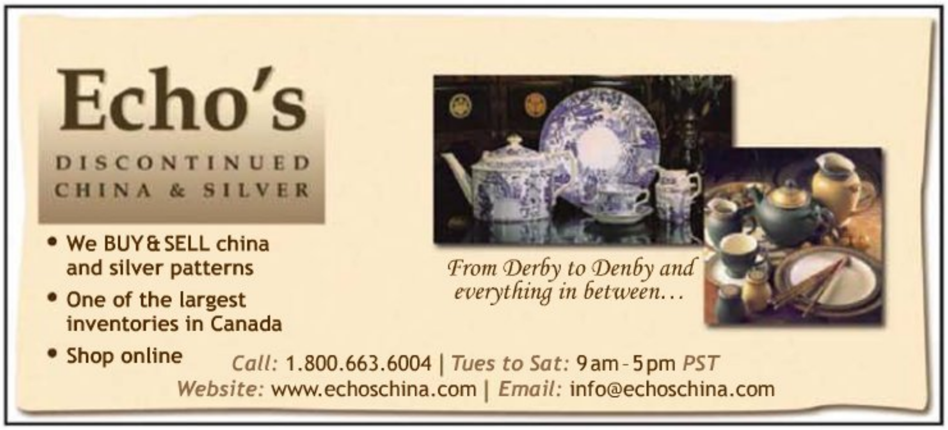




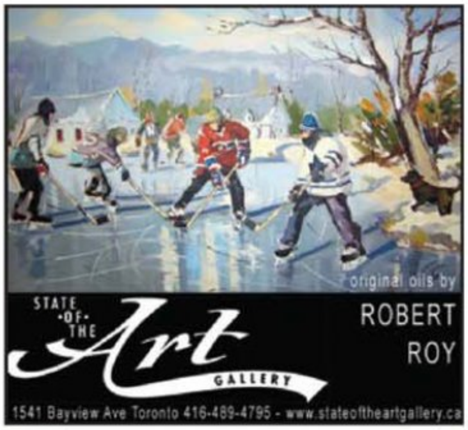


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KIM CHRISTIE

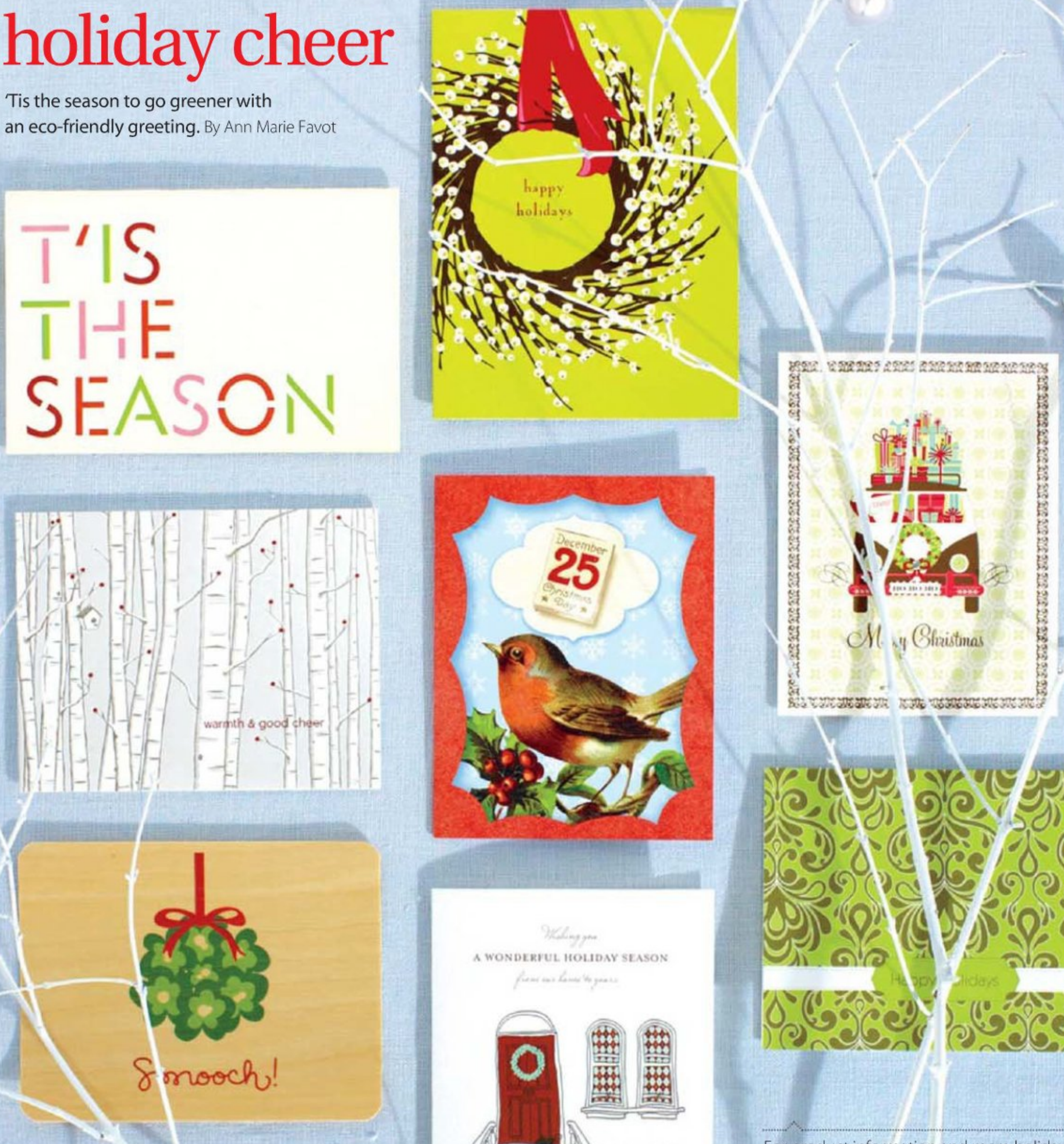
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holiday cheer

'Tis the season to go greener with an eco-friendly greeting. By Ann Marie Favot



For product information and more holiday cheer, see **WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 170**

THINK GREEN

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